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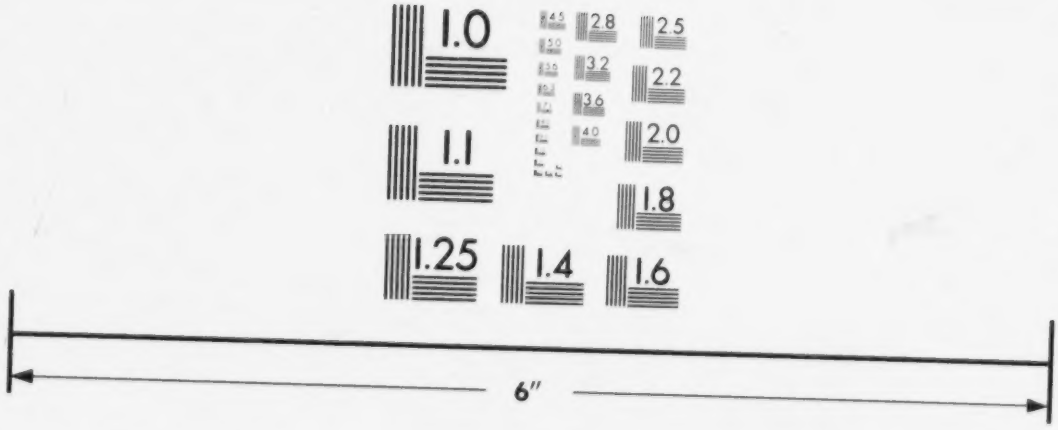

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 DECEMBER 1984

Iran

Tehran Bomb Blasts — Two bombs exploded in Tehran on 25 and 26 December, according to IRNA. The first, which the agency claimed was planted by U.S. "terrorist agents," blew up at 1545 GMT on 25 December, killing 6 people and injuring 50 others. After giving details of this incident, IRNA stated that the United States had warned earlier that it would take revenge against Iran for supporting terrorism after the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner to Tehran on 4 December. The second explosion occurred in downtown Tehran at 0620 GMT on 26 December, causing damage but no casualties, IRNA reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian planes attacked an Indian tanker on 25 December, 70 miles northeast of Qatar, after it had taken on a crude oil cargo at the Saudi port of Ra's Tannurah, Baghdad radio charged. Sources in Manama cited by AFP noted that the plane was unidentified although the attack occurred in an area where Iranian planes are believed to have carried out previous strikes. The 25 December raid left a seaman wounded and badly damaged the ship, the sources added.

Lebanon

Security Plans — The first setback to the security plan in Tripoli occurred with a clash between gunmen and Army troops on 24 December that left three people dead, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported. Meanwhile, contacts over the last few days to prepare for carrying out the coastal security plan had positive results and eliminated all existing problems, Beirut radio stated, noting that Minister of Public Works and Tourism Walid Junblatt is holding talks in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam concerning the security plan.

Al-Naqurah Talks — The National Assembly chairman denied in an *AL-SIYASAH* interview that the Al-Naqurah talks are negotiations, since negotiations imply that the parties are ready to make mutual concessions and "Lebanon has nothing to give Israel." On the Israeli side, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared that chances of reaching an agreement in the talks are diminishing, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, Ireland and Norway denied any knowledge of letters sent to Israel and Lebanon threatening to withdraw their forces from UNIFIL if the Al-Naqurah talks fail, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio revealed.

Israel

Reacting to a message from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz saying that the United States is not willing to grant Israel another $800 million this year because Israel has not done enough to solve its economic problems, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres declared that the matter of additional U.S. aid rests with Israel, which must correct its own economic mistakes "but not at unbearable cost," Jerusalem radio reported.

Jordan

Political and military officials in Amman denied a report by Palestinian sources that the Jordanian Army and a Fatah dissident group clashed in northern Jordan on 17 December, according to Jerusalem radio's Arabic service which cited an AFP report.

Syria

Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau Secretary 'Ali al-Turayki, who arrived in Damascus on 24 December for a short visit, met with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', JANA reported.

Also on 24 December a Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities Avgust Voss stopped in Damascus for a short visit en route home from Kuwait, SANA disclosed.

Sudan

In a Cabinet reshuffle on 25 December, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri appointed five new ministers and a new head of the Higher Council for Religious and Awqaf Affairs, SUNA disclosed. As for clashes in the south, the information minister denied news agency reports about the fall of the town of Juba, WAKH reported.

Tikhonov Visit to Turkey

Turkey wants to develop its relations with the Soviet Union and to expand the two countries' economic and trade ties, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal affirmed at a dinner in Ankara on the first day of Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Tikhonov's official visit to Turkey, Ankara radio reported.

Afghanistan

Soviet and Afghan forces have launched two major offensives in eastern Afghanistan in an apparent move to seal the border with Pakistan, according to rebel sources cited by AFP. Rebel forces' reports described by IRNA claimed that nine military and cargo aircraft were shot down in Paktia Province fighting, adding that fierce battles were continuing in the Panjsher valley.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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'Arafat Meets Husayn, Chairs PLO Meeting

JN241927 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] King Husayn today received PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for the second time in less than 24 hours. 'Arafat arrived in Amman yesterday leading an important delegation. He held talks with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat before King Husayn received him in the evening.

Today, 'Arafat chaired a PLO Executive Committee meeting. Yesterday, he said that a special committee has been formed to continue dialogue with Jordan on the basis of King Husayn's proposals on a joint Palestinian-Jordanian action.

INA: 'Arafat Presides Over Executive Committee 25 Dec

JN251406 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Amman, 25 Dec (INA) — The members of the PLO Executive Committee began meetings here today under Yasir 'Arafat. A Palestinian source told INA today that the PLO Executive Committee will discuss matters dealing with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move on the Arab and international level and the idea of holding an international conference on the Palestinian cause. The source added that at the conclusion of its meetings today, the Executive Committee will adopt important decisions on restoring cohesion to PLO institutions.

The Palestinian source added that Yasir 'Arafat will brief the PLO Executive Committee members on the results of the talks he has had with King Husayn and Jordanian officials during the past few hours.

'Arafat is expected to leave for Kuwait tomorrow at the end of his current visit to Jordan. After Kuwait, 'Arafat will visit the PDRY.

PLO Side in Talks With Jordan Named

JN251739 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The PLO has named the members of its side to the talks with Jordan on presenting a joint initiative to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis. The PLO side consists of: Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the Fatah Central Committee; and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Fahd al-Qawasimi, and 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, members of the PLO Executive Committee.

Kuwaiti Paper Reports Moves To Hold New PNC

GF241314 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] *AL-WATAN* has learned from informed sources that a number of independent national personalities in Kuwait have initiated moves in the past few days to salvage the Palestinian situation and start an immediate dialogue between Fatah and the Democratic Alliance based on the spirit and text of the Aden-Algiers agreement. The moves aim at achieving a comprehensive national agreement on the basis of which the PNC will convene a new session.

In an appeal, for which these personalities have collected the signatures of nationalist individuals, the personalities said that comprehensive national unanimity is the principal aim at this stage. In the event this cannot be achieved, then the signatories to the Aden-Algiers agreement must bear their responsibility in calling for a new PNC meeting. The appeal warned against the establishment of an alternative or parallel organization in any form, either directly or indirectly.

The sources told *AL-WATAN* that these moves in Kuwait by nationalist Palestinian personalities will be coordinated at a later stage with similar personalities in other Arab countries.

Further on New PNC Session

JN260848 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 26 Dec 84 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman — A number of PNC members have voiced support for the initiative of certain independent Palestinian professional and national organizations in Kuwait who call for resuming international and national organizations in Kuwait and resuming intra-Palestinian dialogue with the aim of holding a new PNC session on the basis of the Aden-Algiers agreement. PNC Member Ahmad al-Jamal described the initiative as an expression of the urgent need to respond to active Palestinian efforts to preserve the unity of the PLO as an instrument of struggle to wrest the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on a basis that is opposed to imperialism and occupation. Al-Jamal noted that the Aden-Algiers agreement was and will always be the common denominator of all the national Palestinian organizations, forces, and figures both inside and outside the occupied territory. He said that despite the unilateral policy practiced by one of the parties to the agreement, which was signed by representatives of the Fatah Central Committee, the PFLP, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, it continues to be the only means of saving Palestinian national unity. All factions are called on to adhere to this agreement in order to ratify it in the next PNC session.

Another PNC member, 'Azmi al-Khawaja, pointed out that the recent PNC session has created new complications in addition to those that had existed before. However, he added, we do not regard this as the end of the road, and, therefore, we will continue our serious efforts to end division. Hence, this Palestinian initiative is an additional move to intensify efforts to unify the PLO through a unified PNC session held on the basis of the Aden-Algiers agreement, which forms a sound basis for solving the PLO crisis. Therefore, we call on all Palestinian forces, federations, and trade unions to unify their efforts and close their ranks in order to hold a new unifying session of the PNC on the basis stipulated by the initiative of the independent Palestinian figures in Kuwait. This requires the establishment of a broad national front within the PLO that would constitute a safety valve to protect it.

'ArafatAppointsNewSupervisingEditorofAL-QUDS

GF242000KuwaitAL-ANBA'inArabic23Dec84p1

["Exclusive"reportfromBeirut]

[Text]Sources close to Palestinian resistance forces in Beirut said that Yasir 'Arafat has adopted a decision relieving 'Atallah Muhammad 'Atallah, alias Abu al-Za'im, as supervising editor of *AL-QUDS* magazine which is published in Cairo. 'Arafat has issued a decision appointing Sa'id al-Zayn, alias Abu Hisham, in this position.

The sources stated that 'Arafat adopted another resolution canceling the legitimacy of the signatures of Darwish al-Abyad, general director of the Palestinian National Fund in Damascus, and his assistant Khalid Sawwan. Reports have said that Al-Abyad and Sawwan have been forced to sign checks concerning the withdrawal of PLO money in the Syrian Bank.

Kuwaiti Daily Interviews PLO Official in Moscow

GF251800 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 24 Dec 84 p 17

[Interview with Yahya Habash, director of the PLO office in Moscow and secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, by correspondent Yahya Hamzah in Moscow — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Yahya Hamzah] As director of the PLO office in Moscow, did the Soviet Union make any changes in its position toward the PLO under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat after the PNC session? Why did a Soviet delegation not participate in this session?

[Yahya Habash] The Soviet position toward the Palestinian issue is principled and constant. We feel that in our various meetings with the Soviet comrades, whether in the committee for Solidarity With the Peoples of Africa and Asia or in the CPSU or in the Foreign Ministry, they have always affirmed their continued adherence to the legitimacy of the PLO and its various institutions.

The Soviet position was clear before the convening of the PNC session. Our Soviet comrades exerted efforts with our comrades in the PDRY and Algeria and with the Palestinian factions to reach the Aden-Algiers agreement. The two Yemeni leaders, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, affirmed to us through their negotiations in Moscow that the Soviet position toward Palestinian legitimacy is clear and supports the PLO under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. The Soviet comrades did not respond to President al-Asad's political position or personal position toward Yasir 'Arafat when he visited Moscow and met with them because the Syrian president insisted on the sacking of Yasir 'Arafat before the PNC session and before beginning the comprehensive national Palestinian dialogue. The Soviet comrades rejected this, as did Soviet logic and any political logic in the world, because changing or appointing any person in any organization is the responsibility of that organization alone, in this case, the Palestinians. Therefore, the Soviets refused to include greetings in the name of the two sides to the revolutionary and progressive forces inside the PLO in the joint Soviet-Syrian communique following President al-Asad's visit to Moscow.

[Hamzah] What specifically were the Soviet proposals? Did they oppose the convening of the PNC session in Amman?

[Habash] They did not speak about the place, but they thought it necessary to postpone the session and hold further dialogue. We know that their proposal was based on their concern over the unity of the PLO, because they thought it better for the PNC to have a larger quorum. The Soviet Union did not send a delegation of observers to attend the PNC session because some of the information sent to Moscow concentrated on the incomplete quorum of the PNC. Therefore, Moscow, fearing that the quorum would not be complete, declined to send to a delegation. Of course, this information was incorrect. In my view, the Soviet comrades made a mistake when they did not send a delegation to the Amman meetings, because they have been calling for legitimacy irrespective of the results. However, we will not evaluate the Soviets on the basis of this position, but we evaluate them in light of their constant and continuous positions.

[Hamzah] Does the Soviet Union play an actual role in supporting the dialogue through its contacts with the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]?

[Habash] In fact, the Soviet Union was surprised by a request by the brothers in the Democratic Alliance to visit Moscow during the PNC session. The Soviet Union did not invite them as it was said. When they were here they met with the Soviet comrades. Some of the Soviet comrades told them: Your natural place is to be in Amman and not here.

[Hamzah] Do you think that the Soviet position changed after the arrival of the Democratic Alliance leaders, Habash and Hawatimah, in Moscow?

[Habash] No, because there were differences among the Alliance members and each party held the other party responsible. The DFLP had a clear position and it held the National Alliance and the PFLP responsible. If the PFLP agreed on holding the PNC, the PNC would have actually been held in Algiers and this confusion would not have happened, especially since the Soviet Union was ready to participate in the PNC session.

[Hamzah] Does the Soviet Union play a role similar to the role of Aden and Algiers in following up the dialogue among the Palestinian factions?
[Habash] In my view, they have a basic role, especially with regard to Syria.

[Hamzah] Palestinian officials say that the Soviet Union deals with Syria as a country and with the PLO as a revolution and sometimes the country enjoys priority over the revolution. Being able to watch this process closely from your post in Moscow, is that true?

[Habash] Relations between Moscow and Damascus are intimate. The Soviet Union has a special view toward Syria as, according to Damascus, it represents the pillar of confrontation against international imperialism. Moreover, Syria's declared policy is to confront reconciliation designs and foil the 17 May agreement in Lebanon. Damascus always declares that it sides

with Moscow and supports intimate military cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union.

There is no doubt that there are many points of agreement between the two countries as well as many points of difference, such as Syria's position toward the PLO and the Gulf war. But what Syria says is one thing and what it does is another. It has worked to cancel the 17 May agreement between Lebanon and Israel in order to replace it with a new agreement that is being prepared between the Syrians, Lebanese, and Israelis. In my view, it is an individual move. What is the meaning of an individual agreement? Is it an agreement on borders? Is it not similar to what began in Tent 101 and led to the Camp David accords? Now, Damascus is deliberately trying to isolate the Lebanese issue from the Middle East issue and this conflicts with the Soviet peace plan. This is what we told officials in Moscow. We also told them that the split in the Palestinian ranks is mainly attributed to the Syrian role.

NIDAL AL-SHA'B Calls for Broad Palestinian Front

JN250720 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The magazine *NIDAL AL-SHA'B*, organ of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, has appealed to all national Palestinian forces, factions, and figures opposed to division and capitulation to join the broad national front for Palestinian national salvation [al-Jabhah al-wataniyah al-'aridah lil inqadh al-wataniy 'ala al-sahah al-filastiniyah] in order to confront the trend of division and capitulation led by 'Arafat and his agent gang aimed at joining the capitulatory settlement project through the Jordanian-Egyptian link. This project began with moves to implement the U.S. plan, forge the capitulatory solutions in the region, and liquidate the Palestinian cause.

Referring to the series of moves and contacts made by Mubarak, Husayn, and 'Arafat — such as visits to Western Europe and the United States — the magazine pointed out that these contacts are aimed at preparing the atmosphere for implementing the U.S. plan, and for encouraging the Jordanian regime to begin capitulatory negotiations with the enemy and to besiege the progressive national forces opposed to the policy of capitulation and defeatism. The magazine appealed to all Arab national progressive forces and organizations to immediately begin a joint working plan on the Arab level with the aim of confronting attempts by both the imperialists and their pillars in the region to carry out the capitulatory U.S. plans through the capitulatory alliance of Mubarak, Husayn, 'Arafat, and Saddam.

INA: Arab Diplomats Contact France on Iraqi POWs

JN242039 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Paris, 24 Dec (INA) — A delegation representing the Arab ambassadors to France has delivered a memorandum to the French Government. The memorandum explains the dimensions of the abominable crime committed by the Iranian regime against the Iraqi POWs at the Gorgan camp in the northeastern part of Iran on 10 October.

The memorandum was delivered to Gutman, secretary general of the External Relations Ministry, by a delegation comprising the Moroccan ambassador, who is the doyen of the Arab diplomatic corps; the ambassadors of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the YAR, and Algeria; and the director of the Arab League office in Paris. The memorandum explains the seriousness of the Iranian regime's crime, the poor conditions of the Iraqi prisoners, and the Iranian rulers' continued violation of the Geneva convention concerning the treatment of POWs. The delegation urged the French Government to pressure Iran into respecting these conventions.

The French side affirmed the importance of applying the Geneva convention and expressed the French Government's determination to exert all efforts to make Iran respect their provisions. The French secretary general stressed that his government will contact and coordinate stands with the European states in this regard.

Resistance Operations in South Lebanon

JN241727 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] A group from the Palestinian Lebanese nationalist resistance men set off a high explosive charge today under a Zionist military patrol on the main coastal road near Al-Zahrani, south of Sidon. One large Zionist military vehicle was completely destroyed and all of its occupants were either killed or injured by the explosion.

The resistance men also attacked a military patrol belonging to the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon yesterday. One half-track vehicle was destroyed and another was damaged and all of their occupants were either killed or wounded in the machine gun and rocket attack.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations but, as usual, did not mention his losses. He said that his forces and elements from the agent militias immediately cordoned off the area, carried out an extensive search, and arrested a large number of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens on the pretext of collaborating with the resistance men, who withdrew safely to base.

Fedayeen Attack Israeli Vehicle Near 'Afula

JN251755 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] In accordance with the revolution leadership's directives and decisions to escalate armed struggle in the occupied homeland, the main struggle arena, our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland yesterday attacked a Zionist vehicle carrying several Zionist settlers on a road leading to a Zionist settlement near the occupied Palestinian town of 'Afula. Several Zionist settlers were killed or wounded and the vehicle was heavily damaged in this attack, which was carried out with hand grenades.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the incident, but as usual, did not disclose his losses. He said that his forces immediately surrounded the area, launched a large-scale search campaign, and detained a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of complicity in the operation.

Arab League's Klibi Has Talks With King Hassan

LD251401 Rabat MAP in English 1201 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Tunis Dec 25 (MAP) — Secretary General of the Arab League Mr Chadli Klibi flew in Monday evening after a short visit to Morocco during which he was received by King Hassan II. It was the second visit the secretary general had paid to Morocco this month. The first visit took place last December 10.

Nothing was disclosed about the contents of the discussions he had with the Moroccan monarch but, according to observers, they focused on the latest developments in the Arab world, particularly in the Maghreb region.

KUNA: Arab League Regrets U.S. Withdrawal From UNESCO

LD252058 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1532 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Tunis, 25 Dec (KUNA) — The Arab League has expressed regret at the "U.S. Administration's implementation of its decision to withdraw from UNESCO despite the efforts exerted by various ountries and international bodies." The League considered the decision "as a threat to the principle of the universal character of international organizations which is essential for implementing international action in various fields be they cultural, economic or political."

In a statement the Arab League expressed concern over the consequences of the U.S. decision on the field of international cultural cooperation. It also expressed its hope that the U.S. government would reverse its decision in the near future.

The statement said that the Arab League affirms its confidence in UNESCO and hopes that international efforts will combine to bolster it to enable it to perform its humanitarian mission of consolidating cooperation in the cultural, scientific and technological fields among world countries and peoples.

Briefs

Arab Fund to YAR — Kuwait, 25 Dec (WAKH) — The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development today signed an agreement to loan the YAR 6.2 million Kuwaiti dinars. Under the agreement, the fund will finance a project to expand the Sanaa-Ta'izz highway and a project to reduce the earthquakes. The loan will be at an interest rate of 4 percent and will be repaid over a period of 20 years, with a 4-year grace period. [Excerpts] [*Manama WAKH in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Dec 84 GF*]

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Warns OPEC States on Quotas

LD261056 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 26 (KUNA) — Kuwait's oil minister warned Wednesday that unless the 13 OPEC member states adhere to the organization's quotas and prices, Kuwait will take its own course.

"OPEC's ministerial council meeting in Geneva tomorrow will be decisive because we will spell everything loud and clear and firmly define our final attitude in preserving our national wealth," Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah said. Shaykh 'Ali was speaking to the Kuwait daily *AL-SIYASAH* before he took off yesterday to Abu Dhabi to confer with his Saudi and UAE colleagues to coordinate their stance at the Thursday Geneva OPEC ministerial meeting.

"It is becoming intolerable for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to adhere to OPEC production and prices resolutions whereas others do not abide by them," he said, affirming Kuwait's determination that all OPEC members should henceforth adhere to their allocated quotas. Continuing his unprecedented firm tone, Shaykh 'Ali said "Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have sustained huge material losses in compliance with their declared stance" (regarding OPEC quotas and prices) and wondered for how long the two Gulf oil states can continue to sacrifice while others are ignoring OPEC directives. Shaykh 'Ali concluded his statement by assuring *AL-SIYASAH* that Kuwait will define its final attitude toward the issue at the Thursday Geneva conference of the 13 OPEC states.

The Kuwaiti minister gave the statement to *AL-SIYASAH* prior to his departure to Abu Dhabi where he was to confer with Shaykh Ahmed Zaki Yamani of Saudi Arabia and UAE Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah on coordination of the three major Gulf oil producing states on the future oil policies.

Commenting on the Abu Dhabi meeting, *AL-SIYASAH* said the three oil ministers will use their oil weight to align hesitant OPEC members to the formation of the proposed production and export committee which will restrict each OPEC member to its allocated quota. Both Shaykh Khalifah and Yamani have asserted in previous statements that the success of OPEC in adhering to quotas and prices, monitored by international personnel of their choice, will provide the atmosphere suitable for resolving other problems facing OPEC.

The daily said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have lost no less than ten billion dollars in oil production over the last twenty years to support the unity of OPEC with Saudi Arabia alone shouldering 90 percent of the loss in oil revenues.

Most of the editorial comments in today's newspapers in Kuwait and other Gulf states have stressed this point saying that Gulf states should be firm with other OPEC members who overproduce and offer discounts or sell in the spot market.

GULF AFFAIRS

Indian Tanker Attacked in Gulf 25 Dec

NC251059 Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Manama, Dec 25 (AFP) — An unidentified warplane fired on the Indian oil tanker *Kanchenjunga* in mid Gulf today wounding a seaman and badly damaging the bridge and deck, maritime sources here said.

The 276,744-ton tanker built in 1975 and owned by the Shipping Corporation of India was attacked shortly after 07:30 GMT as it was heading for the mouth of the Gulf after taking on crude at the Saudi Ras Tanurah terminal.

The sources said the attack took place half way between the coasts of Qatar and Iran in an area where several ships are believed to have been the targets of Iranian attacks earlier this year. Iraq, which generally loses no time in announcing its attacks against shipping in the Gulf, has made no reference to today's attack.

In London a spokesman for Lloyds insurance group confirmed the attack saying the ship had put out four distress calls saying it was having tiller problems but was heading slowly southwards.

The condition of the injured seaman was not known.

Spanish Tanker Attacked in Gulf, Ablaze

NC261239 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Manama, Dec 26 (AFP) — The Spanish super-tanker *Aragon* is on fire in mid Gulf after being attacked today by an unidentified aircraft, according to maritime sources in Bahrain. The 238,959-ton tanker had sent out an SOS at 1144 GMT, the sources said. The attack took place in an area where several ships are believed to have been the targets of Iranian attacks earlier this year.

KUWAIT

USSR Delegation Departs After Week-Long Visit

LD241131 Kuwait KUNA in English 0953 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 24 (KUNA) — The Supreme Soviet delegation left Monday morning following talks with Kuwaiti parliamentarians during a one week official visit. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Speaker of the National Assembly Muhammad Yusuf al-Adsani and other assembly officials.

The Supreme Soviet delegation which arrived last Monday, held rounds of talks with Kuwaiti officials and parliamentarians with a view to deepen cooperation between the two parliaments.

The Soviet delegation included Chairman of the Soviet Nationalities and head of the delegation Avgust Voss, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation Nikolay Maslennikov, members of the Public Health and Social Security Commission of the Supreme Soviet Kurban Abbasov and Delgar Mukhaeva [KUNA spelling] and member of the Environmental Protection Commission of the Supreme Soviet Leonid Borodin, in addition to other Soviet officials.

Crown Prince Receives Iraqi Education Minister

LD241723 Kuwait KUNA in English 1550 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 24 (KUNA) — H.H. the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Monday received at his office at the Council of Ministers Iraq's Minister of Education 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to Kuwait. The meeting was attended by the minister of education, Dr Ya'qub Yusuf al-Ghunaym, and the Iraqi ambassador in Kuwait.

Labor Union Chairman Holds Press Conference

GF251440 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 24 Dec p 5

['Abd al-Majid al-Jamal report]

[Excerpt] In his first press conference following his election as new chairman of the reshuffled Labor Union Executive Council, Nasir al-Faraj said that the union will do its best to have labor unions set up in the Gulf countries. He said that the Kuwaiti labor union will provide support and aid to such unions through the Arab Labor Union. He added: "I consider this a duty and a fundamental task of the Kuwaiti labor movement. Mr al-Faraj strongly denounced the ignorance shown by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor by not making any representations at the third general labor meeting in Kuwait. He said that the general meeting and all labor unionists have denounced this absence.

The press conference, held on 22 December, was also attended by Secretary General 'Ali al-Kandari and 'Ali al-Muhanna, secretary of the Committee for Internal Relations. Mr al-Faraj said that the third general labor meeting, which was held from 8 to 10 December, produced fruitful results, especially the adherence of the Kuwaiti labor movement to its exemplary democratic trend. He stressed this point by saying that the labor union has provided ample opportunities for its members to express their opinions and make decisions based on the opinions of the majority, following extensive discussions.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Criticizes ICO on Gulf War

GF251550 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Dec (WAKH) — Kuwait daily *AL-RAY AL-'AMM* was highly critical Tuesday of the Islamic states foreign ministers failure to pinpoint the first and foremost beneficiaries of the prolongation of the Gulf war and dealing with them effectively.

The 44 ministers, who wound up five days of talks in the North Yemeni capital Saturday, should have named the big powers as the sole beneficiaries of the war between Iraq and Iran and should have taken collective action against them, the paper said.

All the conferees, especially those concerned with this bloody war and suffering from it, should have taken a stand in confronting the war and should have put an end to the blackmail exercised against Arabs and Muslims through the continuation of the war, it said. The paper, however, regretted that Iran is missing this important fact and is falling prey to the ambitions and intrigues of the big powers in the Arab and Islamic. [sentence as received]

Just the same, the Arab and Islamic states should force the big powers to give due consideration and respect to the wishes of the Islamic nation for fear of our forceful retaliation. The more serious we take our own cause, the better and more positive results we achieve, *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* concluded.

QATAR

Amir Receives Libyan Leader's Message

GF251602 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Doha, 25 Dec (WAKH) — H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received a message today from Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The message which was delivered to H.H. the amir by the acting oil minister of Libya, Fawzi al-Shakshuki, dealt with the situation in the international oil market in the light of the recent OPEC meeting in Geneva as well as issues related to OPEC.

The meeting was attended by the Qatari Crown Prince and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah al Thani and 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, the minister of information.

SAUDI ARABIA

Moroccan Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD241353 Rabat MAP in English 1202 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Jeddah, Dec 24 (MAP) — Dr Abdelouahid Belkeziz, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs, arrived here Sunday from Sanaa. Dr Belkeziz had represented Morocco to the 15th ministerial conference of the ICO which wound up its works Saturday afternoon in the North Yemeni capital.

King Fahd Receives Mauritanian Envoy

LD252140 Riyadh SPA in English 1911 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 25, SPA — His Majesty King Fahd received here tonight a message from Mauritanian President Colonel Maayouia Ould Taya, delivered by Brigadier Ahmed Ould Minnih, the Mauritanian justice minister and a member of his country's military committee who is currently on a visit to Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the king also received Adam Dablo, adviser of President Abdou Diouf, who also delivered a message to the king from the Senegalese president.

Saudi Defense Minister To Visit Qatar 26 Dec

GF251834 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, will make an official visit to fraternal Qatar tomorrow, Wednesday. The visit, which will last for several days, is in response to an official invitation from His Brother His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and commander in chief of the Qatari Armed Forces.

Report on Saudi-Israeli Relations Denied

LD261148 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Dec (SPA) — An official source in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia denied a report in the Egyptian newspaper *AL-AHALI* — Issue No 168 of 26 December 1984 — quoting the Israeli newspaper *HA'ARETZ* to the effect that His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz told a senior Italian official that Saudi Arabia would establish diplomatic and commercial relations with Israel after it withdrew from the West Bank and the Gaza sector, and that Italy notified Israel of this. The source stated that the report is completely without foundation.

No reader will fail to realize the purpose of the report and that of its originators, which are part of a campaign to sow doubt and confusion, a campaign to which Saudi Arabia is occasionally exposed because of its clear, firm, and well-known positions.

The source added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia categorically denied this report and regrets that an Arab newspaper, whatever its identity, has resorted to publishing such a report.

UAE

Saudi, Kuwaiti Oil Ministers on Unannounced Visit

LD251727 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Dec (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah and Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani arrived here today in a surprise, unannounced visit.

According to official sources, the two ministers will hold consultations with UAE officials on the situation in the oil market "and the conditions through which OPEC is going, as well as the measures to be adopted to bolster and guarantee the cohesion of the organization." The two ministers will meet for this purpose with their UAE counterpart, Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah.

The three ministers attended the first round of the biannual OPEC meeting in Geneva earlier this month. The meeting was adjourned to enable the ministers to have consultations among themselves.

Further on Visit

GF251830 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Dec (WAKH) -- Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening. Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of oil affairs, arrived on board the same plane on a short visit to the UAE. The two ministers were received by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, and Salih Sulayman al-Fuzan, Saudi ambassador to the UAE.

Ahmad Zaki Yamani said he is carrying a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. He said he and Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah will also hold consultations with UAE officials on the oil market situation and measures to enhance OPEC. "These consultations are being held in the context of cooperation among the GCC countries and out of their keenness to support OPEC," he said.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah said he is carrying a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah dealing with bilateral relations, particularly in the oil field.

The OPEC ministerial council adjourned its meetings on 21 December for consultations with leaders of OPEC countries on means of making all members adhere to OPEC decisions, especially on prices and production quotas, in order to support the organization and enable it to face the pressures being applied to it at this stage.

Received by President

GF260624 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Al-'Ayan, 25 Dec (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received two written messages from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, on the current situation in the petroleum market in the context of coordination among the GCC states in the field of petroleum policy.

The messages were delivered by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs; and Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti finance and oil affairs minister, during their meeting with Shaykh Zayid here this evening. The meeting was attended by Mr Surur ibn Muhammad, head of His Highness Shaykh Zayid's court; Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources; and Mr Salih al-Sulayman al-Fawzan, Saudi ambassador to the UAE.

Libyan Oil Secretary Arrives in Abu Dhabi

GF241318 Doha QNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Dec (QNA) — Fawzi al-Shakshuki, Libyan acting secretary of petroluem, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait this afternoon on a short visit to the UAE within a tour of a number of the region's states.

On arrival, Al-Shakshuki said that he is carrying a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealing with current developments in the oil market and measures which can be taken in support of OPEC so that it can restore its strength in the oil market and more capably protect the interests of its member states and confront all the challenges being imposed on it at this stage.

During this short visit the Libyan acting petroleum secretary will hold talks with Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, on the necessary means for maintaining the international oil market and proposals which will be presented to OPEC next Thursday for the purpose of achieving the desired stability during the next 3 months.

The Libyan acting secretary of petroleum began his current tour of the region by visiting Saudi Arabia.

Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

GF241854 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Dec (WAKH) — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with the situation in the international oil market and the common efforts of OPEC members to maintain the unity of the organization in face of the current crisis in the international oil market.

The message was delivered by Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Planning and acting secretary of petroleum, during a meeting with His Highness Shaykh Zayid in Abu Dhabi today.

Concludes Visit, Departs

GF241856 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1845 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 24 Dec (WAKH) — Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Planning and acting secretary of petroleum, left Abu Dhabi for Doha this evening after a short visit to the UAE.

Sultan Qabus of Oman Arrives for Visit

GF251035 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpt] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received his brother Sultan Qabus of Oman when his majesty arrived at 1215 today by land on a visit to the country.

Sultan Departs 25 Dec

GF251444 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 25 Dec (WAKH) — Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman left the city of Al-'Ayn by land for home today after a short visit to the UAE.

UAE Dailies Warn OPEC Against Price War

GF261056 Doha QNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Dec (QNA) — The newspapers published in the UAE today warned against a new oil price war that would undermine the stability of the region and fragment it, and called on OPEC members to establish solidarity and unify their efforts to confront these threats.

AL-ITTIHAD said that the OPEC countries are facing a critical position that poses a threat to the international economic situation. It said that this position emphasizes the need for cooperation among OPEC members to repel the attack against them by defending the current prices of oil and by abiding by the oil production quotas agreed upon.

AL-BAYAN said that if the ceiling of the current production is greater than the international demand then it will be necessary to reduce production, even temporarily, to make it respond to the actual needs of the industrial countries. It added that the OPEC countries should relate their oil production rates to the needs of their economies.

AL-KHALIJ said that the international oil relations map emphasizes that the need for Arab oil in the international market is decreasing rapidly because the United States is resorting to supplies in Latin America; Western Europe is moving to toward the North Sea oil; and Japan is moving toward the Far East and Southeast Asian producers. The newspaper said that these moves are not directed against OPEC as an organization, but against the Arab part of the OPEC.

AL-WAHDAH stressed the importance of continuing intensive consultations among the GCC leaders on developments in the international oil market in order to foil all the attempts aimed at destroying OPEC and at launching a price war against its members.

PDRY

Defense Minister Returns from Ustinov Funeral

GF251930 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Brother Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of defense, returned to Aden this evening after participating in the funeral for Comrade Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, who passed away last Thursday.

In a statement to ANA, the brother defense minister said he extended the condolences of the YSP leaders and PDRY people and Armed Forces to the Soviet comrades on the death of prominent Comrade Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov. He said that Ustinov was one of the prominent leaders in the CPSU leadership. He said that he devoted his life to the issue of socialism, peace, and progress.

He said that during his stay in Moscow he met with Comrade Sergey Sokolov, the new USSR minister of defense, and conveyed to him his condolences and the condolences of the leaders of the YSP and Armed Forces. He also reviewed with him relations between the armed forces of the two friendly countries.

He was received at Aden international airport by Brother Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ilaywah, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff; and a number of the commanders of Armed Forces units.

Foreign Minister Returns From Sanaa

GF241900 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister, returned to Aden today after taking part in the 15th Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Sanaa, in the northern part of the homeland.

In an arrival statement to ANA, Brother Dr al-Dali expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the conference, and with the precise arrangements and the high-level preparations which expedited the success of the conference. He also expressed his satisfaction with the instructions made by Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at the opening of the conference. He added: The success of the conference on Yemeni territory is regarded a success for the Yemeni people. He pointed out that the conference yielded resolutions that support the rights of the Arab Palestinian people in addition to other resolutions that denounce the strategic U.S.-Zionist alliance and the dangers posed by this alliance. He went on to say that the conference touched on a number of delicate issues such as the war between Iran and Iraq, the struggle of the African peoples against racial discrimination and imperialism, in addition to the situation in Lebanon.

In conclusion, Brother Dr al-Dali expressed his extreme satisfaction with the final statement issued by the conference, a statement that stressed the dangers which our Arab and Islamic worlds suffer from as a result of the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance.

Upon arrival, he was received by Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Amayah, deputy foreign minister, and a number of the Foreign Ministry officials.

'Abd al-Majid Returns From Sanaa Conference

NC242233 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid returned to Cairo tonight from Jeddah after heading Egypt's delegation at the conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, which concluded the day before yesterday in the YAR capital.

The foreign minister said on his arrival at Cairo International Airport that the Islamic countries' foreign ministers conference supported Egypt's resumption of its natural position within the ICO and put a final end to any argument about Egypt's membership in the organization. He said that the Egyptian delegation confronted the efforts of Iran, Syria, and Libya to ostracize Egypt. These attempts failed, and even resulted in a tumultuous show of support by all ICO members for Egypt and for its role in the Islamic world. The minister expressed his happiness at the expressions of affection and appreciation from the Yemeni officials, led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the YAR prime minister and foreign minister, for Egypt and its position.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted Iran's rejection of the conference's resolutions on the Iraqi-Iranian war, which appealed to the two sides to assist the ICO-sponsored goodwill action committee in ending the war that is raging between them. He said: Iran's rejection of these resolutions and its obstinate stand will only lead to the shedding of more Islamic blood and will prolong the war, which all of us are seeking to end.

France's Cheysson Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC241216 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — Claude Cheysson said after being received by President Husni Mubarak today that he and President Mubarak spoke about the future of the Middle East and the need to reach a comprehensive solution for the Middle East question. He said Europe has a role to play in achieving this solution in cooperation with the area's states. He said the area's states hope that the Europeans will be present one way or another in the settlement process. Cheysson said the relations between the area's states and Europe are one of the factors of cooperation for achieving a comprehensive settlement. He pointed out that he very often visits Cairo in his capacity as the official responsible for relations between the states of the European Community and the Arab and Mediterranean area's states. He said relations between Europe and these states have futuristic dimensions.

To a question as to whether he will be visiting other states in the area during his current tour, Cheysson said: I will not be visiting other states in the area during this tour, but when I officially take up my post in Brussels I will tour the area.

To a question on his assessment of the opportunities for a settlement to the Chadian question, Cheysson said: We feel that the main question is in the hands of the Chadian people themselves and that the time has come for national reconciliation. We feel that there is an opportunity at present for this to happen. He added: There is no doubt that the opposition to the Chadian Government led by Goukouni Queddei is weaker than at any time in the past and therefore national reconciliation is possible under the leadership of the head of state, namely President Hissein Habre, who is recognized by all the African states. Cheysson added: We look forward to the resumption of the Brazzaville conference, because we feel that through this conference the Chadians will be able to reach a solution among themselves and France will, at the same time, continue its support to Chad so as to prevent any foreign invasion of Chad; this is what France has been doing for the past 18 months.

Cheysson Meets 'Abd al-Majid

NC261312 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid today met Claude Cheysson, former French external relations minister and the official responsible for relations between European Community states and the Arab and Mediterranean states.

During the meeting a review was made of the developments in the Middle East and the role the European Community can play to achieve a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. Dr 'Abd al-Majid underlined the need for the European Community to intensify its efforts in the coming phase and to participate in bolstering the peace efforts. A review was also made of the economic relations between Egypt and the EEC, and the EEC's role in strengthening the Egyptian economy and in participating in the implementation of Egypt's development projects.

Ghali Meets With Israeli Labor Party Official

NC252055 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Yisra'el Gad, member of the Israeli Labor Party's Political Bureau and head of the party's foreign relations department. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations.

Dr Ghali explained Egypt's policy concerning a permanent, comprehensive, and just peace in the Middle East and the bases on which this peace must be founded. He also explained to the Israeli labor official that Israel's policy obstructs the peace process and is the reason for the current state of Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Al-Baz Views Jordanian Relations, Arab Ties

NC241800 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Beirut, 24 Dec (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, has declared that Jordan's decision to restore full diplomatic relations with Egypt has no bearing on efforts for peace and, consequently, nothing to do with the Camp David policy.

In a statement for the Wednesday issue of the Lebanese weekly magazine *AL-SAYYAD*, Dr al-Baz said that Jordan maintains a specific position on the Camp David accords and believes that

this formula, including the amended Camp David formula outlined in President Reagan's plan, is insufficient, since the United States did not keep its promise to stop the establishment of Israeli settlements on the West Bank. Al-Baz also said that Jordan believes that the steps taken in strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel demonstrate that the United States has lost not only its credibility but its suitability to mediate between the Israelis and the Arabs.

Al-Baz points out that the idea behind Egypt's restoration of normal relations with Jordan, or with any Arab country, does not fall within the framework of a specific course toward peace or even within a partial framework, but within a comprehensive formula of Arab solidarity. He said that such solidarity is the basis for the restoration of relations, while recognizing the right of every party to hold specific views that may differ from the views of others. He added that the distinction must be drawn between fundamentals and controversial issues. The former, he specified, must include unity of Arab ranks and interest in the Arab nation's strategic issue. As for issues pertinent to initiatives for peace and the various formulas applied to that goal, they are subsidiary things and agreement upon them cannot be a prerequisite to the restoration of normal relations between Egypt and the other Arab countries.

Al-Baz emphasized that Egypt and Jordan shoulder special responsibility, particularly in terms of liberating the occupied land and in conducting the peace process between the Arabs as a whole and Israel. This is because the two countries have common borders with Israel, and because Jordan exercised sovereignty over the West Bank when it fell under occupation in 1967, while Egypt was responsible for administering the Gaza strip. This attaches secondary responsibility to the two countries, in addition to the general pan-Arab responsibility. He pointed out that this does not mean that Egypt and Jordan can bilaterally decide upon a specific policy or formula by which to settle the Palestinian issue. He said that there is a need for the basic Arab countries concerned with the conflict -- Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, which have common borders with Israel, and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people -- to reach an understanding. There is at least a need for understanding among the largest possible number of these countries.

Al-Baz denied that King Husayn of Jordan, in his talks with President Mubarak, acted as the proprietor of the West Bank, or that Mubarak acted as the owner of the Gaza strip. He said that Jordan's leaders were eager to affirm that the responsibility for talks and negotiations with the Palestinians is held by the PLO, in its capacity as the organization selected by the Palestinians themselves. He asserted that just as Egypt cannot speak for the people of Gaza, Jordan is not trying to speak for those of the West Bank.

Al-Baz denied reports that Israeli-Egyptian-Jordanian negotiations will take place with or without Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He said that this has been ruledout completely and that Egypt has repeatedly declared that it will not enter into any future negotiations on the Palestinian issue without the participation of Jordan and the Palestinians. He said that Jordan also declared that it is not prepared to take part in negotiations without Palestinian participation.

Dr Usamah Al-Baz said that the PLO is accepted, both by the Arabs and internationally, as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Egypt will not accept any Palestinian participation in negotiations but that of the PLO, as this would mean joining in efforts to undermine the legitimacy of a Palestinian decision and to destroy the concept of Palestinian representation itself.

He stressed that the idea of Arab solidarity is no longer a mere question of well-being, as it has been at various times, but has become a matter of life or death, as the question concerns the Arab nation's viability.

Al-Baz added that restoration of relations with Egypt is a pan-Arab necessity in preserving the Arab existence itself. It is not simply a tactical question from which certain benefits may be derived. He said that some Arab countries thought that they could supplant Egypt by excluding it from the arena, inheriting its international weight and its importance in the region. He added: But the Egyptian role carries both burdens and costs, and is not merely an honorary one. He said: If some people had the idea that severing or freezing relations with Egypt or ending its membership in the Arab League would punish Egypt or serve to contain its role, they were wrong. The time has come for our Arab brothers everywhere to realize this.

In his interview with *AL-SAYYAD*, Al-Baz said that an agreement in the Al-Naqurah talks on Israeli withdrawal should be reached in 2 or 3 months, and that it would be implemented within 6 months.

He noted that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon does not mean an end to its influence there. There are elements within Lebanon who will work openly or secretly and indirectly to serve Israel, or who will at least pursue policies that are compatible with Israeli objectives.

Al-Baz called on the Arab states to take an interest in the Lebanese issue, because Lebanon's collapse would not be confined within its borders. If partition actually takes place in Lebanon, it will necessarily reflect on neighboring Arab states.

Dr Al-Baz stressed that Egypt is well aware of the situation in Lebanon and knows that it has a grave responsibility there, not only by virtue of the special relations between Egypt and the Lebanese people but because Egypt's interest in the situation in Lebanon reflects its concern about the future of the Arab nation.

Dr Al-Baz said that it is wrong to think that a joint Egyptian-Jordanian plan has been adopted by one of the great powers, either the Soviet Union or the United States, with which to proceed. He added: We need both an active U.S. role and a Soviet role pushing toward peace, along with a European role, as the European countries have their own interest in securing peace in the Middle East.

Al-Baz said that the feeling abroad that the Arabs lack seriousness and the large differences between declared and real positions

jeopardize the Arab stand and strategic Arab interests. The way to rectify this image is to expand the circle of agreement among certain Arab countries.

Al-Baz predicted that the trend represented by Jordan's decision to restore relations with Egypt will become a general one. He said: It is certain that the Arab countries, with the exception of two, will realize how important it is that the entire Arab nation take the same course, and thus the major Arab countries will not fail to do so. In this respect, he predicted that this will prove true by next year, and that the Arab situation will thus have been corrected to a large extent before the end of 1985.

Mubarak Receives Message From Zambia's Kaunda

NC241532 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, delivered during a meeting today with Windsor Nkowani, Zambian ambassador in Cairo. Following the meeting, the Zambian ambassador said that the message deals with bilateral relations, which are both firm andclose. He added that it also deals with certain African problems, primarily the Namibian issue, the situation in South Africa, and steps that can be taken to deal with these problems. Finally, it deals with the difficulties obstructing the implementation of UN Resolution No 425 and with the practices of the racial segregationist government in South Africa.

Mubarak Message of Support to ANC's Tambo

NC241554 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has emphasized the commitment of the Egyptian people and government to the struggle against the repugnant policy of racial discrimination being applied by the regime in Pretoria. In a message to Oliver Tambo, chairman of the African National Congress [ANC], in reply to an earlier message from Tambo, President Mubarak stressed Egypt's continued support for the South African liberation movement's efforts to establish a free and democratic society in southern Africa.

The message was delivered by Ambassador Ahmad Sidqi, director of the African Affairs Department in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, to Alfred Nazu, secretary general of the African National Congress in southern Africa.

Communique Details Recent Military Operations

JN241720 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,690, issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces will continue to defiantly and capably deal painful blows to the forces of the rotten heads in Qom and Tehran if they do not abandon their wicked hostile trend against great Iraq. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Using artillery and mortars, one of our forward units pounded enemy positions and vehicles in the operational sector east of Basra, scoring accurate and effective hits which resulted in destroying one infantry position, one vehicle, and one medium machine gun emplacement, damaging two vehicles, and killing one enemy troop. An enemy boat carrying five persons was also hit.

2. One of our patrols carried out a bold combat operation against one of the enemy positions opposite our forward units in the central sector of the operational theater, inflicting losses in men and equipment. All of the patrol's elements returned safely to their positions. Elsewhere in the same sector, one enemy machine gun emplacement was destroyed.

3. A group of our heroic fighters raided an enemy boat carrying three persons in the Maysan sector and managed to destroy it and to kill its occupants.

4. An enemy group tried to approach one of our forward units' positions in the northern sector of the operational theater. Our heroic fighters intercepted it, killing or wounding several troops and forcing the rest to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 December 1984

Further on War Operations

JN251709 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA) — Iraqi artillery dealt blows to Iranian forces' positions, equipment, and troop concentrations in the operational sector east of Basra today. Communique No 1,691 issued by the Armed Forces General Command said that as a result of the artillery shelling, huge losses were inflicted, 7 enemy infantry positions were destroyed, 2 vehicles were set on fire and destroyed, 3 others were hit, and many explosions were heard.

The communique added that one of the forward units pounded Iranian forces' positions and troop movements in the central sector, inflicting losses in life and equipment and destroying one infantry position. The communique also said that new groups of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with the forward units in the central and northern sectors and were evacuated to the rear. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,691, issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With ability and concrete actions the triumphant Iraqi forces take up a stand of challenge and steadfastness in every position in the battlefield, proud of their victories over the forces of the treacherous Iranian enemy, and confident that the pure Iraqi soil will not be harmed by any treacherous and evil hand as long as there are knights to defend it and to draw their swords to crush injustice. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and for today are as follows:

1. The valiant artillery men dealt accurate and effective blows to several enemy positions, equipment, and troop concentrations in the operational sector east of Basra, scoring direct hits and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Our valiant artillery men destroyed 7 infantry positions, set on fire and destroyed 2 vehicles, damaged 3 other vehicles, and set fire to other positions from which the sound of explosions and cries for help were heard.

2. Using artillery amd mortars, one of our forward units pounded enemy positions and troop movements in the central sector of the battlefield, inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment, and destroying one infantry position.

3. Escaping the tyranny of the ruling clique in Iran, new groups of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units in the central and northern sectors of the battlefield and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 December 1984

Military Reinforcements Sent to Central Sector

JN261422 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Informed sources in Baghdad have mentioned that important Iraqi military reinforcements, comprising infantry, artillery, and tanks, were sent to the central sector of the battlefield during the past few days in anticipation of a new Iranian military offensive in this sector.

Trade Minister Confers With Brazilian Official

JN231642 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 23, INA — Member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council (RCC) and Minister of Trade Hasan 'Ali met here today with visiting Brazilian Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Economic Affairs Paulo Tarso. Talks at the meeting tackled bilateral trade and economic relations as well as matters pertaining to the forthcoming session of the joint Iraqi-Brazilian Committee for Trade and Technical Cooperation, due in Baghdad next year.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Reacts to Shultz' Message to Peres

JN260920 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Dec 84 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Until Washington Wakes Up"]

[Excerpts] In his message to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz calls on the Israeli Government to move quickly to put an end to the economic deteriotation in Israel — a deterioration which constitutes a major burden not only to Israel but also to the U.S. treasury that is wide open to supporting the deteriorating economic and financial situation in the Zionist entity.

The U.S. support for the Zionist entity has reached a point whereby the U.S. press and social circles have begun to show irritation with the policy of supporting Israel because it is taking place at the expense of social services to U.S. citizens themselves who have to pay taxes to the authorities. However, these taxes go to Israel instead of being used in services for U.S. citizens who have become unable to understand the nature of relations between the ruling administration and the Israeli entity.

The U.S. Administration knows how to save Israel from its economic situation, which from the U.S. point of view has far exceeded the red line. However, this administration is impotent to confront the political blackmail which comes under the deceptive cover of blind strategic alliance. The U.S. Administration knows that saving Israel from its economic crisis cannot be achieved through huge payments of billions of dollars, neither through opening the U.S. and consequently international markets for Israeli products, nor through opening the arsenal of U.S. weapons to the Israeli Army, whose ambitions have no limits, or standing against any attempt to denounce the Zionist entity, its racism, and terrorism in the Middle East region.

The U.S. Administration knows that saving Israel from its ordeal and economic collapse can be achieved through a just and comprehensive peace which will put an end to wasting funds and billions of dollars on wars, weapons, expansion, settlements, and the stationing of armies in the occupied territories.

A just and comprehensive peace is the only means to put an end to the Israeli and U.S. suffering from this sick economic situation that the parasitic Zionist entity has imposed on the United States, its treasury, and economy. The U.S. Administration is fully aware of this. However, because of its deceptive dreams of imposing hegemony on the region's destinies, it is impotent to play its role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace that would guarantee the rights of all the region's peoples to live in peace, security, and stability away from the dreams of expansion and occupation of other peoples' land by force, and military, material, and psychological terrorism.

The U.S. Administration realizes this. However, we are sure that it has become impotent to dispose of the cordon of hostile alliance in which it has involved itself, and under which it has become a party that is hostile to the will of peace, right, and stability in this part of the world.

Until the U.S. Administration becomes aware of more facts inside and outside the United States, Washington will continue to pay more and more, not only from its treasury, but also from its dignity, principles, and the pockets of the U.S. citizens, a price for its connivance and alliance with a hostile entity which will never experience stability and security until the will of peace, right, and justice imposes itself on this holy land.

AL-DUSTUR Praises Shultz' Message

JN261115 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Dec 84 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "An Interesting U.S. Stand"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' message to the Israeli prime minister, whose contents were revealed in Tel Aviv yesterday, reflect a U.S. stand worthy of closer examination due to the fact that it includes new elements, and because it involves profound changes, that is, if it is not revoked at the last moment as was the case in many similar instances in the past.

Shultz' message, which includes a series of technicalities that must be dealt with in Israel before the United States extends further and urgent economic aid, becomes more important in light of what is taking place in U.S. circles, and in light of reports by major U.S. newspapers such as *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, *THE WASHINGTON POST*, and the *CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR*, about the American people's irritation and displeasure with the series of Israeli financial demands that have not stopped since the formation of Shim'on Peres' government 3 months ago.

This is because at a time when the U.S. federal budget deficit has reached unprecedented figures in light of the deteriorating social crises to which there are no solutions, even under the current economic boom in the United States, Israel continues its economic policy by depending on a continuous flow of foreign aid. This has led to postponing the explosion of the stifling financial crisis without achieving a radical solution to it.

Without getting involved in the complicated details of the current Israeli economic crisis, and even if we put aside the very expensive hostile policies that are adopted by the successive Israeli governments, we have no doubt that this expansionist society that has been transplanted into the heart of the Arab region is living beyond its own economic means. This was noted in Shultz' message. It stipulated that there must be a reduction in living standards in Israel before receiving further financial aid.

Although we would like to overcome our traditional caution that was entrenched by similar cases in the past when dealing with the United States, we are very encouraged by such a stand because it represents a sort of return to consciousness if not an awakening of conscience regarding the immense economic and political burden that the American people have to bear — a burden that is represented by Israel's presence in the region.

We also hope that such an awakening will find a response in U.S. circles including Congress which is loyal to Israel. Perhaps all this will restore balance to the U.S. policy in this region and give

the U.S. Administration some of the credibility that it has lost toward the Arab nation.

Agreement Reached With Egypt on Trade Protocol

JN241329 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Dec 84 p3

[Excerpts] Amman — Ministry of Industry and Trade Under Secretary Ibrahim Badran who is also the head of a Jordanian economic delegation to Egypt, returned home Sunday after a three-day visit to Egypt during which he signed an agreement for the implementation of a bilateral trade protocol.

Mr. Badran said that the Jordanian delegation held talks with the Egyptian ministers of external trade, housing and construction about goods which might be exchanged between the two countries, including Jordanian cement.

Mr. Badran said that the Egyptian side has shown a great deal of interest in Jordanian goods, especially chemical fertilisers. The delegation, comprising the directors of the commercial centres, the South Cement Company in addition to officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, is still in Cairo to finalise the technical side of the signing and to pay visits to industrial and commercial institutes there, Mr. Badran added.

At the beginning of December an Egyptian delegation visited Amman and signed the first phase for implementing the $30 millin bilateral trade agreement for the year 1985.

A one-million tonne Jordanian cement deal has been delayed due to a price dispute; the Egyptian side, represented by the Cement Supply Bureau has offered $36 million for the cement while the South Cement Company (SCC) of Jordan did not accept the price. However, the two sides are negotiating to find out the proper price for the signing of the cement deal.

FRG Parliamentarian Delegation Greeted, Talks to Press

Al-Masri Receives Parliamentarians

JN241413 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has reiterated Jordan's stand, which seeks a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause — a solution that will guarantee Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, that is based on UN Resolution 242 and on the principle of land for peace, and that will guarantee the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

During his meeting with a delegation representing the FRG and European parliamentarians, who are members of the FRG Green Party, Al-Masri asserted the importance of holding an international conference for peace in the region under UN sponsorship and with the participation of all concerned parties including the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Security Council permament members.

The foreign minister explained to the delegation Jordan's view on the future of political action between Jordan and the PLO and the distinguished historic ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian people. The FRG party delegation's visit to Jordan comes within a tour of the region to review the facts of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Greens Leave for West Bank

JN251251 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — A delegation representing the FRG and European parliamentarians, who are members of the FRG Greens Party, has asserted the need to achieve comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and from southern Lebanon, as well as the need to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The delegation called for guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their rights to self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil. The delegation condemned interference in the PLO's internal affairs. This came at the news conference the delegation held at the 'Amun Hotel today before leaving for the occupied West Bank on the last leg of a tour of the region to review the facts and dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

(Jurgen Reents), head of the delegation, praised the results of the talks the delegation held with Jordanian and Palestinian officials. He said the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere.

The Israeli occupation authorities did not allow delegation member Brigitte Heinrich to enter the occupied territories today, on the pretext that she is persona non grata. Mrs Heinrich returned to Amman.

Further on Greens Party Statements

JN252105 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] West German parliamentarians from the Greens Party today stressed the need for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including south Lebanon, and recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The delegation called for guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on Palestinian soil. They also denounced intervention in the PLO's internal affairs. The delegation members were speaking at a press conference in Amman before heading to the occupied West Bank as part of their current Middle East fact-finding tour.

In a statement to Jordan television, the team said their tour in the region was to get acquainted with the dimensions of the Middle East conflict. They said Israel opposed their position because they support Arab rights. Israel, they added, also fears the setting up of a committee to investigate its crimes in the occupied Arab lands and south Lebanon. They noted that the Greens had denounced Israel's involvement in the Sabra and

Shatila massacres. They also said that their talks with Jordanian and Palestinian officials in Amman had confirmed to them the justness of the Arab stand and the Arab sincere desire to reach a just and comprehensive peace.

Meanwhile the Israeli occupation authorities today prevented (Bergit) Heinrich, a member of the Greens Party, from entering the occupied West Bank because of her pro-Arab stand. Our television reporter, Murid Hammad, interviewed Miss Heinrich at King Husayn's Bridge.

[Begin recording] [Murid Hammad] ... being denied entry into the occupied area?

[Heinrich] I feel a little angry about this.

[Hammad] And you insisted on coming despite this report?

[Heinrich] No. I [Words indistinct].

[Hammad] What about the document you distributed about the involvement of the Israelis in Sabra and Shatila massacres?

[Heinrich] No, we collected information by the people who lived in Sabra and Shatila, and they told me how it was and how they felt when these massacres happened, and they told me and they told us that the Israeli troops were sitting beside where the massacres were happening and they really did nothing. And they sent a delegation to tell the Israeli troops to help the people of Sabra and Shatila, and nothing happened. I think that this had to be known, not only in Sabra and Shatila where the massacres of the Phalangists happened.

[Hammad] What about the Israeli intelligence putting members of your party under surveillance and trying to expose you, for example, as a terrorist, that was published in one of your newspapers?

[Heinrich] I do not like very much its break of sovereignty of Germany, and we reject this like all other breaks of sovereignty, like occupation of foreign territories.

[Hammad] One more thing, why do you think the Israelis always insist on blaming the Germans for starting World War II and for what they call the Jewish massacres?

[Heinrich] I think that everybody who is criticizing the Israeli politics is denounced as an anti-Semite even if it is known that he is anti-Fascist. Now our party is anti-fascist party and I during years did anti-fascist work against the neo-Nazis and against the old Nazis and against all tendencies which could arrive to Nazism again. [end recording].

AL-DUSTUR Comments on Husayn-'Arafat Talks

JN250946 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Dec 84 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Husayn-'Arafat Meeting"]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan and his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn are of special significance, especially at this state following the convocation of the PNC session in Amman that entrenched the legitimacy of the Palestinian leadership, which has successfully waged the battle of safeguarding the independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

In view of the special and distinguished Palestinian-Jordanian relations, which the PNC strongly confirmed at its recent session, King Husayn's meetings with 'Arafat reflect not only the dimensions of political rapprochement and the joint viewpoint on the requirements of the coming stage, but also the strong Jordanian-Palestinian ties that have stood fast in the face of all tests and attempts to affect them.

This is why 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, despite the fact that it falls within the framework of a long series of visits the PLO chairman is making to the Arab capitals, gains special importance. It derives its significance from the foundations of the joint Jordanian-PLO action — foundations that the recent PNC resolutions have entrenched and that all sincere Arabs have blessed.

This is because the formula of political action that is currently being crystallized through the continuous Jordanian- Palestinian meetings, which aim at preparing a joint action in the interest of the Palestinian people's objectives, constitutes the only possible option for breaking the current stalemate in the major Arab cause and for averting it from the threats of liquidation.

Even if the immense responsibility toward the future of the occupied Arab territories has been realized by the Jordanians and Palestinians, who are the owners of the cause and of the house and who, by virtue of blood ties, interests, and the one destiny, are aware of the responsibility of confronting the current stage, this does not relieve the Arabs of their responsibility to support such a joint action and to provide it with the necessary backing on the international level.

While we look at the future of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian action with optimism and confidence, and believing that it embodies the aspirations of the one people on the two banks of Jordan, we have no doubt that the Arabs will not hesitate in supporting this action and promoting its political formula in order to allow it to gain the necessary influence and political efficiency on the international level.

Death Sentence for 15 Dealers With Israel

JN261014 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Dec 84 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman — The Council of Ministers has endorsed the sentence of death by hanging on 15 persons, passed in absentia, by the special court set up to prevent the sale of real estate to the enemy. In accordance with the court's decision, the movable and immovable properties of these persons were put under government control and the sales considered null and void.

The sentences, which were published in the official gazette yesterday, were issued against the following:

Nasir Mas'ud Nasir al-Shunnar from Tulkarm; Shukri 'Abdallah Mansur al-Sarghali from Tulkarm; Muhammad Salim

Muhammad 'Arab al-Bassah from Dhannabah, Tulkarm; Fathiyyah 'Abd al-Fattah Mas'ud Sa'id from Dhannabah, Tulkarm; Yusuf Shu'ayb from Qalqilyah; Basil al-A'raj from Tulkarm; Jamal 'Awdah Abu Wardah from Tulkarm; Mahmud Kayid Thulthayn from Kufr al-Labad, Tulkarm; Ahmad Anis Jaradat from Janin; Muhammad Jamil Muhammad Bal'awi from Tulkarm; Yusuf Sudah from Tulkarm; Sa'id 'Abd al-Fattah Mas'ud from Dhannabah, Tulkarm; Salim Hamid Muhammad Hamamrah from Husan, Bethlehem sub-district; Yusuf 'Ali Nimr al-Shaykh from Yalu, Ramallah sub-district.

Government To Request Plan Implementation Date

NC251915 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] REUTER reports that Prime Minister Rashid Karami has told the English-language newspaper *THE DAILY STAR*, which is published in Beirut, that during its meeting tomorrow the Lebanese Government will request the Military Council to set a date for implementing the coastal security plan.

The paper quotes Prime Minister Karami as saying that action concerning the plan will be taken in a few days.

Contacts on Plan Said Positive

NC252030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] On the eve of the Cabinet's meeting, consultations were held today at various levels to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for implementing the coastal security plan. Contacts held over the last few days have achieved positive results and have eliminated all existing problems.

In this context, Walid Junblatt, minister of public works and tourism, is holding consultations in Damascus with Syrian officials, primarily with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, regarding the current political and security situation, particularly the implementation of the security plan.

Sources close to Minister Junblatt have said that the obstacles in the way of the coastal security plan have nearly been eliminated and that there are no longer any basic differences.

The sources described the atmosphere during the current contacts as positive. Sources expect the Cabinet to request the military command tomorrow to implement the plan.

Cabinet Fails To Approve Plan

NC261225 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] The Cabinet ended its activities at B'abda Palace at 1415, 4 minutes ago. The editorial office is now on the line to give us the details:

The Cabinet's meeting ended at 1415, 4 minutes ago. Ministers Birri and Qasir have already left the palace. A ministerial source confirmed to the Voice of Lebanon correspondent at B'abda Palace that the security plan has not yet been approved.

Karami Comments

NC261302 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] The Cabinet session ended at 1415. Prime Minister Rashid Karami made the following statement:

The Cabinet listened to the Army commander and the chief of staff, and decided to authorize the Military Council to implement the military plan. The Cabinet asked the council to set a zero hour for implementation. In so doing, the Cabinet has thus approved the plan which has been drawn up and modified by the Military Council. Authorization has been given for holding the necessary contacts to eliminate the existing obstacles and to consider the Army responsible for safeguarding security within its zones of operations on the coastal line and in Iqlim al-Kharrub.

The Cabinet has also authorized me, as the prime minister, to conduct the necessary study about the situation and security at the airport, and to take the necessary measures which we deem fit following our contacts. We will refer this matter to the Cabinet for final decisions.

In response to a question about the role of the Lebanese Army, the prime minister said the Cabinet's decision on such matters is clear, and those concerned with such matters can look at the decision. Answering a question on whether the Socialist Party has approved the new view of the coastal plan, Karami said the Military Council has been authorized to set the zero hour for implementing this plan after holding contacts and eliminating obstacles, should these exist.

PSP Radio Reports on Agreement for Security Plan

NC241342 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Former Minister Marwan Hamadah contacted Army Chief of Staff Major General Mahmud Abu Dargham this morning during his meeting with Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and informed him that the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] stresses that all parties should sign the latest security agreement to prevent any ambiguity in details or denial of commitments, as occurred before.

It is worth mentioning that the PSP and the Amal movement had insisted during the contacts held with them on the need to speed up the implementation of the agreement.

The Voice of the Mountain has learned that Chief of Intelligence Colonel Simon Qassis will brief the parties concerned on the agreement and will obtain their signatures on it.

The agreement includes the formation of a committee of representatives of the army, The Lebanese Forces, the Amal movement, the PSP, and the French observers to supervise the withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist militias from Iqlim al-Kharrub and to control the Al-Jiyah harbor, which will be a temporary terminal between Iqlim al-Kharrub and Beirut with the PSP permission to facilitate the implementation of the plan.

The agreement also includes the formation of a brigade made up of three battalions. The first will be deployed between Khaldah and Al-Sa'diyat, and its headquarters will be in Al-Sa'diyat. The second will be deployed between Al-Sa'diyat and Al-Awwali via Bisri. The third will be a reserve battalion. The brigade's com-

mand will be in Al-Jiyah with a reserve company and a tank battalion.

The agreement also provides for the deployment of the internal security forces in six areas in Iqlim al-Kharrub to control the security situation there.

Phalangists Approve Security Plan 'in Principle'

NC241525 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr Elie Karamah said today that the party has approved the security plan in principle, and is now waiting for final approval from the other parties. He said that the necessary guarantees must be provided for the movement of Christians via the Al-Jiyah harbor and for their free presence in Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Referring to the deteriorating security situation at the Beirut airport, near the parliament and in the area of the Finance Ministry, Karamah said: We may be forced to apply deterrent measures if this situation continues as it is, particularly as Christian citizens in West Beirut are being kidnapped and killed almost regularly.

Finally, the Phalangist Political Bureau has ordered the Phalangist police to refrain from gunfire during the holidays, in order to ensure the well-being of the citizens.

Kuwaiti Paper Reports U.S. Plan for Beirut Airport

GF250545 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 24 Dec 84 pp 1, 20

[Exclusive report from Washington]

[Text] *AL-SIYASAH* has learned from well-informed security sources that the U.S. Administration, in the wake of the Kuwaiti airbus hijacking, is beginning to deal with Beirut airport as a matter for strict security. These sources consider Beirut airport a source for the export of terrorism to the region and the world.

AL-SIYASAH has learned that the Reagan administration, which has sent a special security team to Beirut to investigate and coordinate with the legitimate authorities, is convinced that the closure of Beirut airport would reduce terrorist operations by 70 percent.

In accordance with this conviction and in order to act on it, *AL-SIYASAH* has learned that Washington and Tel Aviv, in recent concentrated contacts, have reached preliminary agreement that Israel will take the following steps to remedy the situation:

1. It will raid Beirut airport in order to halt flight activity.

2. It will begin negotiations on reopening the airport on condition that it will be run by trusted military authorities in Lebanon who will guarantee the movement of flights without any terrorist infiltration.

AL-SIYASAH has learned that the raid against Beirut airport by the Israeli Air Force will make the airport independent of the current party and political influences which have allowed this international civil airport to be constantly exploited by international terrorism.

The issue of international terrorism has motivated the United States to take this step, which is expected to be followed by other similar steps under the general heading of countering terrorism and removing it from the Middle East, thus freeing U.S. interests from exploitation and attack.

Defense Minister Departs for Paris Visit

NC261218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Excerpt] 'Adil 'Usayran, minister of agriculture and national defense, left for Paris at noon today for a 10-day recuperation visit. He is likely to meet with French officials. Speaking about the new facts in the Lebanese arena, particularly the coastal plan, 'Usayran said at the airport that he expects the plan to be implemented this week. He expressed his optimism about the general situation in Lebanon. He affirmed that Israel will put more obstacles in the way of the coastal plan. Regarding Israel's possible partial withdrawal from the south, the minister said this will cause no harm to the southerners, who are united.

Envoys Deny Threat To Withdraw UNIFIL Forces

NC241804 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The Irish and Norwegian charges d'affaires in Beirut have denied any knowledge of letters sent by their governments to Israel and Lebanon threatening to withdraw their forces from UNIFIL if no agreement is reached in the Al-Naqurah negotiations.

The enemy radio reported this morning that the states participating in UNIFIL might withdraw their forces from Lebanon if the Al-Naqurah talks failed, in a desperate attempt to put pressure on Lebanon and to win specific demands that the Israeli negotiating team raised at the talks.

Kuwaiti Daily Interviews Assembly Chairman

GF241530 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 23 Dec 84 p 17

[Interview with Husayn al-Husayni, chairman of the Lebanese National Assembly, by *AL-SIYASAH* correspondents Muhammad 'Anan and Muhammad Sa'id in Beirut – date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: In light of the visit by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy to Lebanon and his tour of the region, do you expect an improvement in the progress of the Al-Naqurah talks, or will the tour of the American envoy be of no benefit, as rumored in Lebanon.

[Husayn al-Husayni] Our view of the current situation is based on the fact that there has been a relaxation between the two

superpowers. This implies that the tempo of the struggle between them has declined. This will ease the reflection of their struggle in the Lebanese arena.

There is a U.S.-Soviet-European conviction that Syria is the one which is able to support the settlement of the Lebanese crisis. There is an actual Israeli contradiction in the region resulting from the losses of the Israeli occupying forces due to the resistance in the south, and the great economic deterioration within Israel. These two elements have weakened the Israeli Government and forced it to escalate its withdrawal from Lebanon. Within these assumptions, we believe the role of the U.S. envoy is to facilitate this withdrawal, because the credibility of the U.S. role in the region is its ability to put pressure on Israel. If this pressure does not exist, then United States has no role in the region. I have to correct the word "negotiations" which is being used in reference to Al-Naqurah. What is actually taking place are meetings of the Armistice Commission of 1949. These are not negotiations, especially since negotiations imply the readiness of the two parties to make mutual concessions.

Lebanon has nothing to give to Israel. It has the will of its people to liberate its territories. It possesses international resolutions which affirm its legitimate resistance to the Israeli occupation, especially Resolution 425 and its details contained in Resolution 426 of 1978.

Question: Despite the announcement that the Al-Naqurah negotiations are strictly of a military nature, do you not view that calling them military negotiations is against political logic, since any negotiation results from a political decision and serve a political goal? As chairman of the Lebanese National Assembly, what do you expect the outcome of these negotiations will be?

[Al-Husayni] As I have said, these are not negotiations. We have accepted the meetings of the Armistice Commission in order to find an international framework which will enable Israel to withdraw according to international legitimacy. If it refuses the proposal, I think that it will withdraw through our resistance to occupation. I absolutely do not think that this matter has any political side, especially when we say that the negotiations meeting...we mean that these meetings are within the framework of the Armistice Commission. A state of war still exists between us and Israel, and it will continue until the Palestinian people achieve their legitimate rights, because Lebanon alone cannot decide peace in the region. It is part of the Arab crisis, which has the right to decide on this peace.

[Question] Some sources have said that the Syrian strategy of closing the file on the Lebanese crisis has not been fulfilled by Syrian actions, because security, political, and governmental plans have been obstructed. What do you think?

[Al-Husayni] The Syrian role, or the Syrian initiative, did not begin yesterday, but in 1976. It has been encumbered due to Arab and international interference, and because of Israeli plots. But the Syrian initiative has been resumed recently. Not a letter of its original concept has been changed. We know that the existence and the continuation of the Lebanese crisis represents a constant danger to Syria and the Arab nation. To stop this danger means that Syria and other fraternal Arabs must be able to confront Israel. They must prepare for this confrontation without the confusion that has taken place with the eruption of the Lebanese situation. The conflict in Lebanon and the eruption of the Lebanese arena are the core of the Israeli plot aimed at wasting Arab powers in the Arab lands. I think that Syria will succeed in closing the file on the Lebanese crisis despite its quiet approach of insistence and determination.

Birri Seeks Release of Arrested Citizens

NC251218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] It has been reported from Jun that gunmen last night arrested more citizens and detained them in unknown locations. The same gunmen yesterday arrested 13 citizens in Jun and have not yet released them.

Nabih Birri, minister of justice and hydroelectric resources and minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, yesterday afternoon contacted Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and asked him to intervene immediately to secure the release of the detainees in Jun. Minister Birri said: It is clear that this crime of attacking homes in Jun and arresting citizens is part of the attempts to obstruct the opening of the coastal road. It is about time that they refrained from such practices.

Walid Junblatt Leaves for Damascus 24 Dec

NC250650 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt left for Damascus yesterday for talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The talks will focus on the progress made by the security plan for the coastal line and Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Druze Resistance Denounces Junblatt's Executions

NC251031 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The Druze national resistance [al-Muqawamah al-Wataniyah al-Durziyah] announced that Raja Yusuf Zaytuni and Sulayman Yusuf al-Sayigh, who were executed by Junblatt's followers in Bayt al-Din and Al-Baruk, are noble martyrs assassinated by treacherous socialist bullets because they refused to join Junblatt's regime of persecution, oppression, and terrorism.

VOL on PSP-Israeli Meeting in Marj 'Uyun Barracks

NC250719 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The Phalangist council of the Al-Shuf region has disclosed that a meeting was held in the Marj 'Uyun barracks 3 weeks ago between Israeli officials and members of the Supreme Command of the Progressive Socialist Party. During the meeting, which was also attended by representatives of the army of southern Lebanon, roles were allocated with regard to the security plan.

A statement issued by the Phalangist Council of the Al-Shuf region challenged the socialists to deny this report, because the council will then be compelled to publish the details of everything that took place during the meeting, before the Socialist leaders left the Marj 'Uyun Barracks in a white Renault.

Three Killed, Five Wounded in Tripoli Clash

NC241416 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The first setback in the security plan in Tripoli took place at approximately 1400 today at the Nahr Abu 'Ali traffic circle, where the Lebanese Army is manning a roadblock. An argument broke out between gunmen and members of the Army. This developed into a clash in which shots were fired. Three people were killed, one civilian was wounded, and four Army men were wounded, including a second lieutenant.

A state of alert ensued and many gunmen appeared in Al-Qubbah area. Fire was opened on the Army in the area.

The security committee made intensive contacts to contain the situation and bring about a cease-fire. However, a state of caution prevails in the area.

Shaykh Sha'ban Comments

NC241950 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] In the north, the Quadripartite Security Committee met tonight in the residence of Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, to deal with the regrettable incident that took place at noon today between some gunmen belonging to the Unification Movement and Lebanese Army troops at the Abu 'Ali traffic circle in Tripoli.

Following the meeting, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban made the following statement:

Four days have passed since the security plan was implemented, during which we have regarded the members of the Army as our sons. We were surprised today by a regrettable incident in which two young men were killed and several others were wounded. The reasons for this incident did not warrant gunfire from either side. The security plan was implemented to protect the lives of the people, and the Army should carry it out with kindness and high morale. We advised them to be alert and cautious and to avoid violence. We also advised the citizens to avoid any violence against the Army. We advised everyone not to clash with any Army position, because he who does so is engaging in sedition. We are trying to avoid sedition and to safeguard security.

Shaykh Sha'ban concluded his statement by asking the personnel who man the Army's roadblocks to act with wisdom, as a brother behaves with his brother and as a man behaves with his family. We regard ourselves as one family, he said.

An investigation has been initiated to determine who was responsible for the incident, so that the necessary action can be taken against him.

Iraq Cancels Flights to Beirut Due to Security

NC250646 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Informed sources in Baghdad have disclosed that the ineffecient security measures at Beirut international airport has prompted Iraq to cancel all flights to and from Beirut. The Middle East Airlines company called off a flight to Baghdad yesterday at the request of Iraq.

VOL On Shelling of East Beirut 24 Dec

NC250630 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Evil and barbarism were lying in wait for the Christians as they were preparing for the Christmas celebrations. As of 2320 last night, as Christians were heading for churches, shells started to fall indiscriminately on the line extending from Shwit up to Al-Fanar, causing death and destruction in the following areas: Shwit, 'Arayya, Kafr Shima, Al-Hadath, Al-Hazimiyah, Sinn al-Fil, Al-Dikwanah, Al-Dawrah, Al-Nab'ah, Furn al-Shubbak, Al-Ashrafiyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. Meanwhile, an explosive charge went off near the Al-Wardiyah church in the Al-Hamra' area.

Phalangists Raid Homes, Arrest Several Citizens

NC241345 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Phalangist forces have continued their attacks in Iqlim al-Kharrub. They raided homes in Jun township, arrested several citizens, and opened fire in every direction. Columns of smoke were seen rising from buildings.

Al-Mughayriyah came under machinegun fire from Kassarat 'Aynan, and Al-Wardaniyah came under similar fire.

PSP Radio on Shelling of Mountain, Al-Kharrub Areas

NC250722 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Before midnight the Phalangist forces and the army opened artillery and rocket fire at 'Alayh al-Shuwayfat, 'Aramun, Bshamun, 'Ayn 'Nub, Dayr Qubil, Al-'Ma'rufiyah, Baysur, Kayfun, 'Aytat, and Shimlan from their positions in the vicinity of B'abda, Al-Wadaya, Sinn al-Fil, Kafr Shima, Suq al-Gharb, Al-Masuriyah, Al-Jumhur, 'Arrayya, Bayt Miri, and Bsaba. The weapons fire continued until the early hours of the morning and then became sporadic. It can still be heard in 'Alayh, coming from Tallat Province.

Likewise, the villages in Iqlim al-Kharrub came under intensive artillery fire, particularly, Al-Wardaniyah from the Phalangist

positions in Rus Al-Rumaylah, Kassarat 'Alman, Tallat Dawud al-'Ali and Jadra.

There was an explosion at midnight at an ammunition depot in the Al-Mukallis vicinity. For 2 hours there were successive explosions in the depot.

Fighting Noted in Sidon; 2 Israelis Wounded

NC242025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Reports from the south tonight indicate that Lebanese national resistance fighters attacked a patrol belonging to the Israeli occupation forces with machinegun fire at 1630 this afternoon, while it was passing through the Iskandarani quarter in Sidon.

Eyewitnesses said that two Israeli soldiers were wounded. The occupation forces cordoned off the area and fired randomly at citizens, killing Salih Muhammad Shihadah and 'Ayidah Farhat.

Resistance Fighters Attack Israeli Convoys

NC251456 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] In the south, national and Islamic resistance fighters attacked an enemy convoy at the entrance to Al-Nabatiyah at 0430 today, killing or wounding more than three Zionist soldiers.

At 0515, the resistance fighters attacked another enemy convoy on the Al-Zahrani-Tyre road with rocket and machinegun fire, killing or wounding more than four Zionist soldiers. Helicopters were seen evacuating the wounded. The occupation forces cut off the roads leading to the area for 2 hours and conducted a search operation.

The resistance fighters attacked an enemy convoy at the entrance of Haruf township last midnight, using rocket launchers, RPG's,and medium and light-caliber machine guns.

A 10-minute clash ensued between the resistance fighters and the Israelis. Two Zionist soldiers were killed and several others were wounded.

Israelis Release Detainees, Arrest Others

NC251500 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The enemy forces released 197 detainees from Al-Ghaziyah township, but have detained three citizens whom the forces arrested yesterday following the resistance fighters' operation against an enemy convoy.

The occupation forces this morning raided Irkay and arrested the sons of the village chief.

At dawn today the occupation forces raided 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, where they arrested 30 citizens. Our correspondent in the south said that a violent confrontation took place between the citizens and the Zionist forces, during which some children were slightly wounded.

Khomeyni Message to Christians Attacks Pope

NC251232 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] A message from Imam Khomeyni addressed to Christian churchmen through the Information Department of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut was distributed at the doors of some churches in West Beirut today. In his message, Khomeyni criticized the major powers that embrace Christianity but act contrary to God's teachings. He also attacked his holiness the pope and incited Christian religious men against him. He said that Christ and the Christian religion, too, stand accused. Save your religion because the pope stands accused.

Khomeyni criticized Pope John Paul II because he condemned the detention of hostages in Iran. He said that the pope defends the oppressor and condemns the oppressed. He added that the Iranian people are weak and should not be condemned.

Talas Represents Syria at Ustinov's Funeral

JN241824 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Today, Moscow buried Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and defense minister. The Soviet Government and party leaders, representatives of social organizations, senior officers of the Soviet Armed Forces, and foreign delegations participated in the funeral.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister, led the Syrian delegation to Ustinov's funeral and to offer condolences. The delegation consists of General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff, and Major General Subhi Haddad, commander of the Air Force.

Talas Confers With Sokolov

JN251358 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Moscow — General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, met with new Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Sergey Sokolov today. Gen Talas conveyed to Marshal Sokolov President Hafiz al-Asad's congratulations on assuming his new post. They reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR. They also asserted the need to continue reinforcing Syria's defensive capability in order to confront the imperialist and Zionist schemes and to support its militant role in the region.

Al-Ahmar Extends Condolences at USSR Embassy

JN231103 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, visited the USSR Embassy in Damascus today where he extended condolences on behalf of the Party's national command over the death of Comrade Dmitriy Ustinov, member of CPSU Central Committee and CPSU Politburo and defense minister.

SANA: Soviet Delegation Stops Over in Damascus

JN241450 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — A Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by Avgust Voss, chairman of the Soviet Council of Nationalities, arrived in Damascus this morning on a short visit en route home after an official visit to Kuwait. Voss and his delegation were received by Dr 'Ali Rida, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly, and Nazim Qaddur, secretary of the People's Assembly. During the short stay in Damascus, the Soviet delegation visited a number of historical sites. The delegation left Damascus this afternoon.

In a predeparture statement to the SANA correspondent, Avgust Voss, head of the Soviet parliamentary delegation, praised the Syrian leadership, party, and people. He also praised the heroic struggle which Syria is waging under President Hafiz al-Asad against imperialism, Zionism, and their agents. He asserted that Syrian-Soviet relations in the parliamentary field and other fields are developing and being strengthened within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Voss pointed out the importance of President Hafiz al-Asad's recent visit to the USSR and the positive results of that visit. He said: The USSR has always supported Syria's policy, particularly in its confrontation with imperialist and Israeli schemes and conspiracies as well as with those who support Israel and stand by its side. Concluding his statement, the chairman of the Soviet Council of Nationalities greeted the Arab Syrian people and wished them progress and success on all levels.

Libya's Al-Turayki Arrives on Visit 24 Dec

JN241335 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Damascus received Al-Turayki at Damascus International Airport.

Confers With Al-Shar'

JN241821 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Damascus this evening. The talks revolved around the Arab situation and the results of the ICO conference that was held in Sanaa.

Confers With Khaddam

JN242042 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki in his office this evening. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting. The talks revolved around the current Arab situation.

Leaves After 2-day Visit

JN251734 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus — Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki and his accompanying delegation left Damascus today after a 2-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister 'Isam al-Na'ib, the Libyan charge d'affaires in Damascus, and the assistant protocol chief at the Foreign Ministry.

Al-Na'ib Returns From Sanaa, Makes Statement

JN241608 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — Assistant Foreign Minister 'Isam al-Na'ib returned to Damascus today after heading the Syrian delegation to the 15th Islamic foreign ministers conference which concluded its meetings in Sanaa yesterday.

Al-Na'ib said that the Syrian delegation succeeded in adding a paragraph to the conference's agenda on the illegality of the Egyptian representative's presence at the conference. He also said that the Egyptian regime should abide by the Islamic summit resolutions against Camp David.

The conference had adopted a number of political, economic, informational, and cultural resolutions, most important of which was one condemning the Israeli decision to annex the occupied Golan heights, considering this decision null and void.

TISHRIN Assails Shamir's Remarks on Withdrawal

JN250809 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 25 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon and the Next Stage," *TISHRIN* says: Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has reiterated that the Israeli forces will not withdraw from southern Lebanon until what he called security arrangements have been made. Shamir's statement comes following the announcement that the final touches have been put on the Lebanese Army's deployment plan along the coastal highway from Al-Madfun to Al-Awwali. His statement also comes in the wake of explosions in which many innocent people were killed in Beirut and other areas. It is not strange that such statements coincide with these explosions. It proves Israel's involvement through its agents whose interests were harmed by the reconciliation process, the implementation of the security plan, and the great successes Lebanon has so far achieved. These explosions, which only serve Lebanon's enemies, have also coincided with the procrastination and inflexibility of the Israeli military negotiator at Al-Naqurah, who is trying to impose his terms on the Lebanese military negotiator.

TISHRIN adds: This is a blatant attempt to realize political as well as military gains at Lebanon's expense, so that Israel may make good its losses as a result of the cancellation of the 17 May agreement. The Lebanese Army, which realized security in Beirut and Tripoli, is capable of realizing security, preserving the dignity of the Lebanese people, and driving the invaders out of Lebanese territory. Lebanon has decided to be its own master —proud, free, and united.

Lebanon's steadfast position in facing attempts to impose Israel's terms of giving agent Lahd's forces a role in the South and of expanding the UNIFIL duties is a national, pan-Arab position that deserves appreciation and admiration as well as support from all Lebanese parties and the entire Arab nation. This is because any victory Lebanon realizes in its political and military battle with the Zionist enemy is a victory for the whole nation. Israel must realize that its betting on its agents in Lebanon was lost from the first day the Lebanese national unity government was formed, and that its only option is to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from all Lebanese territories.

Lebanon is capable of protecting itself. It needs no advice or trusteeship, because its twin sister, Syria, has pledged to stand alongside the Lebanese people until they realize their aspirations of pride and dignity and until their territory is liberated from the invaders. Much has been realized in Lebanon, but this does not mean that Lebanon has reached the shores of safety. The road before the Lebanese people is arduous and thorny, and the next stage requires devoting all efforts to building Lebanon's future. Let Lebanon trust its people and national forces. Syria will remain true to its principles and commitments toward this fraternal country until Lebanon is restored to its normal position.

TISHRIN Comments on 'Capitulationist' Moves

JN240751 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 24 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On the latest capitulatory alliance, which is being formed in Amman, the newspaper *TISHRIN* says:

It may be premature to predict the results of the moves by the Arab capitulatory band of Mubarak, Husayn, and 'Arafat, because this band has presented its concessions without any responses or reactions from the other side. Indications are that the inevitable results will be concessions with nothing in return. The reactions of Washington and Tel Aviv to the Amman theatrical, 'Arafat's gimmicks, and Mubarak's moves, have not exceeded blessings, welcome and praise by the U.S. Administration's officials and the two-headed Israeli Government. There has been no practical reaction from either Washington or Tel Aviv nor have they shown any gesture that may give the impression that they have something to give those Arabs who crave for a solution, any solution.

Here, we must recall a salient fact that has recently appeared; a fact which may be a significant pointer to the results of this running after capitulation; namely, that Al-Sadat, who used all of Egypt's weight before normalizing its relations with Israel and who placed all Egyptian resources at U.S. disposal, did not reap anything except frustration and humiliation despite all this concessions. What would his capitulationist followers reap when they do not posses anything comparable to what Egypt had possessed. In other words, we ask: Does 'Arafat have anything to seriously compromise on or negotiate about with anyone, now that he has laid down his rifle, abandoned his trench, and left the fighters' ranks? What does Husayn have? For 17 years, King Husayn has been guarding the longest frontline with our usurped territory [against fedayyeen infiltration]. Former Israeli Chief of Staff Eytan reacted to King Husayn's statements and peace efforts by saying: King Husayn should sit quietly in Amman and thank Israel.

TISHRIN asks: Why all this hurry and how does it benefit the cause as a whole? How has the Amman PNC helped the cause,

particularly the Palestinian resistance? What benefit has been accrued by the restoration of ties between the Jordanian and Egyptian regime in this manner and at this time? Is there any explanation for all this other than Syria's — Syria which has condemned these moves and called for confronting and foiling them? Do we not mean well when we ask these Arabs, with good intention, why they have not worked to invest the great Arab triumph in Lebanon in the service of the cause instead of descending to the last rung of the ladder of concessions and of outdoing Al-Sadat's betayal?

Peres Admits U.S. Aid Depends on Economic Measures

TA251236 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says he believes the question of American aid is in Israeli hands. The prime minister was reacting to a message from American Secretary of State George Shultz that the United States was not willing to grant Israel another $800 million this year because Israel has not done enough to solve its economic problem. The prime minister was speaking at the conference of the Central Bureau of Statistics this morning. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] Prime Minister Peres said Secretary of State Shultz had paid the Israeli Government a compliment saying that no previous Cabinet had done so much. But the Shultz message also sounded a warning bell. The secretary of state had told Peres if you do not do more, and quicker, you face a serious and urgent economic problem. The prime minister went on to say that America has helped Israel and maybe will continue to do so. But he added, this is in our hands. We have made economic mistakes, and we must now correct them, but not at an unbearable cost. The prime minister then appealed for what he called a little more restraint in consumption, a little increase in productivity, a little more saving, and a little more stability. The prime minister concluded: I say a little, because no one is proposing starvation and austerity.

He disclosed that the Shultz message had been leaked to the press and the Finance Ministry has also voiced anger over that leak. However, the Shultz warning may very well help Prime Minister Peres and Finance Minister Moda'i eke out more budget cutbacks from the various Cabinet ministers. To date, Moda'i and his ministerial team have had a hard time persuading the ministers to make new cutbacks in their budgets. The U.S. and most Israeli economic experts have long been demanding a further reduction in government spending. The finance minister is to report on this question at Sunday's Cabinet meeting. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 25 December notes that "at the conference of the Central Bureau of Statistics, the state statistician, Professor (Sitron), released the first details on 1984, which will be published on 1 January 1985. Throughout 1984, exports increased by approximately 14 percent, with a commensurate drop in imports. This data points to a drop of approximately $1 billion in Israel's balance of trade. This year private consumption declined by approximately 8 percent. This data is encouraging."]

Moda'i Asks for Clarifications on Economic Measures

TA251732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i asked the U.S. Administration for clarifications in the wake of Secretary of State George Shultz' message, and the administration has already stipulated which measures it believes Israel should adopt in order to restore its economy.

Quoting U.S. sources, our correspondent in Washington, Razi Barqay, reports that the reference is to monetary measures and another cut in the state budget. Referring to the military grant the U.S. Administration will give to Israel, it has been reported that an announcement to this effect will be made when Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrives in Washington next month. According to these sources, the grant will be increased by several hundred million dollars.

Ya'aqobi Criticizes U.S. Comments on Economic Aid

TA251759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi has rejected what he calls U.S. preaching to Israel and today had some very harsh words to say about the continued U.S. pressure regarding Israel's economic policy. Our correspondent on economic affairs, Gad Sukenik, listened to Ya'aqobi's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] The high commissioner has given Israel its midterm grades. This is how Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi described the secret message Secretary of State Shultz sent to Prime Minister Peres and the finance minister. Even Shultz admits that we are heading in the right direction regarding our economy, Ya'aqobi said.

[Ya'aqobi] We do not need sermons, messages, or talking papers [last two words in English]; we know this. Maybe others need them, but we know this. On this matter we do not need any new theories from Washington. The deliberations should not be regarded as the final word; the deliberations have only just begun.

However, it is not this aid alone that will help us, and we should not put the emphasis on it. We must first and foremost put the emphasis on what is happening in our own backyard.

[Sukenik] Minister Ya'aqobi nevertheless believes there is a chance of increasing U.S. aid to Israel next year. [end recording]

Press on Shultz Message, Ya'aqobi Reaction

TA260700 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *DAVAR* says that Israel is, of course, a sovereign country, and is under no obligation to accept Shultz' economic advice. In that respect, Minister Gad Ya'aqobi was justified in voicing an unrestrained outburst. However, it should be remembered that the United States, alas, is also a sovereign country and is under no obligation to increase aid to Israel if it believes that this would not promote the resolution of the problem. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres left a lot of goodwill in Washington after his visit there 2 months ago. Rather than squander it, he would be well advised to tell his colleagues in the Cabinet that this time Shultz and his colleagues mean every word, and every dollar. This realization is relevant to decision making.

HATZOFE writes that the aid extended by the United States is a major pillar in the building of Israel's economy. Washington is therefore justified in demanding that the extension of this assistance not turn out to be a process of funneling funds into a bottomless pit. Yet the U.S. Administration is well aware of the attempts to put the Israeli economy back on the right track and realizes the difficulties involved in implementing parts of the economic plan. Irrespective of the aid requested from the United States, it is necessary to work out the economic plan — including state budget cuts — soon. However, this should be done without U.S. pressure and without advice-cum-dictates. The deliberations on the economic policy should be concluded as soon as possible, but without U.S. pressure linking increased aid with the implementation of drastic measures.

'AL HAMISHMAR says it is doubtful whether there is a precedent in Israeli-U.S. relations to Secretary of State George Shultz' message to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Shultz' letter is not perfunctory, and reflects the U.S. public's image of Israel as a bankrupt and spendthrift country receiving assistance from the U.S. taxpayer. The initial government reaction to Shultz' letter proves that what it regards as most important is the preservation of the Cabinet's image.

Peres on Negotiations With Lebanon, Jordan

TA211217 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 84 pp 13, 14

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Ya'aqov Ha'elyon in the prime minister's office "a few hours before the SHAS crisis was resolved" on 19 December]

[Excerpt] Question: Let us turn to the Al-Naqurah talks. Do the Lebanese sincerely want an agreement?

Answer: In my opinion, Lebanon and sincerity do not go together.... Their situation is complicated; they sincerely want one thing and its opposite. On the one hand, they say they want us to leave and, on the other, they fear our departure. On the one hand, they say they have an army and, on the other, they know they do not have an army. Our difficulties with them do not stem from the negotiations, but from their situation.

Question: If that is the case, what point was there in trying to get an agreement with them?

Answer: It was our duty to try to reach a political arrangement with Syria and a military arrangement with Lebanon. We could not say that because of these difficulties we would not, to a certain extent, try this alternative which is the lesser of two evils.

Question: There have been contradictory reports about your view of the alternative. What is the truth?

Answer: I favor returning the IDF to the international border, but not before we have established the necessary security arrangements which must provide for the deployment of the army of southern Lebanon and UNIFIL, and must ensure the security of the Galilee and our soldiers.

Question: You have been mentioning with satisfaction the creation of new political situations. A flag manufacturer from Jerusalem is getting ready to sew Jordanian flags.

Answer: I would not suggest that anybody begin sewing flags. Negotiations do not start with flags. We have openly and publicly invited Husayn to talk. I do not understand why people constantly look for secrets. We want to meet Husayn and discuss all the issues on the agenda. I am not surprised that the Jordanian king is favorably impressed with this fact. The fact that he says something good should not infuriate everybody. Beyond that, I think I need not elaborate.

Question: Not even on the reports that you and Husayn did or did not exchange secret messages?

Answer: Whatever had to be denied has been denied. I believe there is room for action, but we must all be patient. I do not think peace is on the threshold, waiting for us around the corner. There are possibilities for a dialogue, however, which call for ingenuity and imagination, but which are coupled with many obstacles and difficulties. The fact is — and this is related to this subject — that we can also say that it has been less infuriating and negative than 100 days ago. Even if only the atmosphere has mellowed, I consider this an achievement and I do not mind that we are being given credit for it, by many capitals around the world and also by many Israelis.

Question: Are you not worried about the katyushas fired recently from Jordan?

Answer: There is no disputing the fact that the Jordanians have been doing everything possible, just as in the past, to prevent it.

Question: Is there no reason to fear that such incidents might take place more often?

Answer: We hope Jordan will continue with the same policy it has followed in the past.

Question: What about the PLO moving its center of activities to Amman?

Answer: That is a problem. On the other hand, it is not only Jordan that is moving toward the PLO, but the latter is also moving toward Jordan. Until a few months ago, the PLO did not want to hear about Jordan. Again, I do not want to exaggerate, but 6 months ago, for example, it would have seemed fantastic to envision the Jordanian king addressing the PNC and talking about the need to hold peace talks with Israel based on UN Resolution No 242. I do not think the PLO has changed, it has merely taken its quarters to Jordan without embracing the Jordanian plan. Therefore, I distinguish between the two, and that is why we continue to put the emphasis on Husayn.

Question: Still, the PLO has found a new location.

Answer: Not a military but a political one, and only under certain conditions at that. It has also given up on what it had before. One cannot say that the PLO of Amman resembles the PLO of Beirut. In Beirut, it was a state within a state, whereas in Amman it is an organization within a state.

Question: Has the Labor Party struck Knesset Member Darawshah's plan to attend the PNC session in Amman off its agenda?

Answer: I think so. The man did what he did openly. In the end, nothing happened, and Darawshah has declared that he remains faithful to the party.

Question: Criticism has been levelled at your initiative to purchase French nuclear reactors.

Answer: I should give credit to the previous government for it. Here is a scoop for you: When I was in the opposition, Shamir asked me to discuss such a possibility with Mitterrand and I did. As for the criticism, I am prepared to accept any criticism on condition that the critics know what they are talking about. If it turns out that a nuclear reactor is cheaper than any other power station that operates on fuel, why should we not purchase it? Almost 80 percent of electric power in France comes from nuclear reactors. I have not heard that they have ecological problems. All that talk comparing me with Meridor's energy invention.... After all, I am responsible for the construction of two nuclear reactors in Israel. Thank God, my record proves me right on this matter. This ignorance and — if you may — wickedness amazes me, or, to be more precise, astonishes me. Actually, I am not even astonished....

Question: To sum up, how do you keep up such a pace?

Answer: The world was not created for the idle. Nothing can be attained by waiting for manna to fall from heaven. I have worked hard my whole life and this job is not a piece of cake.

Peres Comments on Economy, Jordan, Egypt

TA211123 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Dec 84 Weekend Supplement pp 1, 2, 19

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Yosef Shavit; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr Prime Minister, the government marked its first 100 days this week. In your opinion, have they been good days?

Answer: We neither asked for nor received any days of grace. These were simply 100 days. Perhaps they were days of truth, but not of true grace.

Question: It seems that the people have given you almost unlimited credit in dealing with the economic crisis and the embroglio in Lebanon. Have you felt this?

Answer: I do not know who you mean when you talk about the people. From the first day the press criticized us on all the issues, both economic and political.

Question: The end of the 100-day period is still a good point to count the gains and losses. Let me ask you this: Do you think you have met the expectations of the public?

Answer: You embarrass me. Do you want me to evaluate myself?

Question: Well, after all you meet the public frequently.

Answer: I would not like to speak on behalf of the public. I only know that wherever I have gone I have been greeted very nicely and I have received many letters of encouragement.

Question: Let me be more specific. Can you make an interim accounting in the economic sphere?

Answer: We have taken a lengthy series of measures in the economic sphere and I will enumerate them: We approved two cuts in the state budget, the first for $1 billion and the second for $0.5 billion; we froze all government contracts, initially for 3 months and then for another 3 months; we decided to ban imports of luxury goods for 6 months; we cut the foreign currency allowance for Israelis traveling abroad from $2,000 to $1,000; we set up a socioeconomic council which has begun operating in many fields; later, we agreed on a package deal despite the prevailing skepticism; in addition, I went to the United States to attain a so-called safety net, and we reached an agreement in principle with the U.S. Government on a resumption of activities which we called a ray of light on growth; and then we met with Jews worldwide to enlist them in this effort. Some of the things we did are only the first seed and it will take time to see the results; others were administrative decisions. All these measures were taken within 100 days and that is a great deal.

Question: Following your return from the United States, shortly after you entered office, you sounded very optimistic about the aid we would receive from the Americans. Different signals have been coming from Washington recently. Were you not over optimistic then?

Answer: Following my return from the United States, the Americans said they would give us $1.2 billion and they did. President Reagan made a public statement to the effect that if Israel faced difficulties with its balance of payments, the United States would help us. Some things have been said and other things have been done. I remain as optimistic as ever. I have no reason to be less optimistic because of those or other reports.

Question: There has been a lot of talk in the last few days about a second package deal. Could you be more specific on this issue?

Answer: At this point, I will say only two things. First, I believe we will be able to maintain this national consensus. I do not think the economy can be restored by laws and decrees. I think this can be done if we enlist the nation's willingness and get the agreement of the economic sectors. Second, I am sure the economy cannot be restored if we do not tend to all its components. At one time,

attention was paid to inflation and the balance of payments was ignored and at other times it was exactly the opposite; on other occasions, both these issues were taken care of and unemployment was set aside. We should come up with a comprehensive plan dealing with all those issues, which are a contradiction in terms by nature; we must find the most suitable synthesis. Contrary to the opinions which were rife in Israel, such a synthesis may be found in the package deal. At present, everybody admits that it has exceeded expectations. I hope this will also be the case in the future.

Question: Can you predict how long it will take to restore the economy, or, at least, how long it will be before we see the light at the end of the tunnel?

Answer: Experts say that inflation will drop by half by the end of the package deal. Our goal is to reach a normal rate of inflation within 1 year.

Question: What is your definition of a normal rate of inflation?

Answer: Less than 10 percent a year.

Question: Do you not share the fears that the economic plan might be coupled with a large wave of unemployment, whose implications for a society such as ours could be very serious?

Answer: I am afraid and that is why I am trying to prevent that.

Question: What do you consider the bottom line in terms of unemployment?

Answer: For me, the bottom line is one unemployed person, because each such person is 100 percent out of a job. I think our economy must undergo two phases: One to curb the deterioration and another to resume growth. I have been exerting a great deal of pressure so that economic growth will resume as soon as possible; resuming growth will also create jobs.

Question: The labor minister recently said that if unemployment increases too much, there will be no choice but to retreat from the economic plan. Do you agree with this?

Answer: I think we need an economic plan that tackles unemployment from the outset. We should not allow a situation to develop where unemployment runs rampant. We should take this danger into account and take measures to prevent it. I am not giving up on the problem of unemployment.

Question: At this time we do not know yet whether SHAS' resignation is an irrevocable fact. Beyond that, does the current coalition crisis not indicate the degree of stability and strength of the national unity government?

Answer: It is difficult, very difficult, to maintain a broad-based government. Except for this affair with SHAS, there is no doubt that the national style has changed in these 100 days. Hostility, hatred, and exaggeration have dropped and there is a dialogue. You cannot judge the national situation according to the number of seats around the Cabinet table. I definitely believe that the style has changed a great deal in the last 3 months.

Question: Could you be more specific? Where do you see that?

Answer: Three or 4 months ago you would have thought that domestic political life was divided between PLO-ists and fascists. The dispute between secular and religious people has toned down and the sectarian differences have also softened; Israeli Arabs have more expectations and confidence; people have regained their faith in our currency. You should read the papers printed 100 days ago and those published today and then you would see the difference.

Question: With all due respect, is it not a little bit too exaggerated to state that people have regained their faith in our shekel?

Answer: I do not think so. I am not saying that people have regained their confidence in the value of our money, but they buy less and spend less. There have been very nice manifestations of this: Some companies' employees have voluntarily taken a 5-percent cut in their salaries.

Question: With your permission, let us go back to the question of the national unity government. Are you generally satisfied with its performance?

Answer: I do not think there is a perfect government. As a rule, a democracy allows for endless arguments, disputes, and differences of opinion. If you look at the record of this government, you will see that it has made many more decisions than any other narrow-based government has made or could make; some of those decisions were painful. I am not saying that this is a perfect government, but it is one that works. I even think it has been working better than I expected. From the beginning I knew it would be very difficult to maintain a government that is built on such shaky foundations. As I said, however, it has been working.

Question: Your colleague, Mordekhay Gur, said this week that the Likud ministers dedicate too much time to political activities and too little time to the affairs of their ministries....

Answer: I cannot comment on what this, that, or the other person says.... Leave such questions alone; do not put me on the "stake."

Question: Are you not bothered by the constant presence of an alternate prime minister looking over your shoulder?

Answer: I do not think Mr Shamir acts like an alternate prime minister.

Question: How would you describe your relationship?

Answer: It is very normal. Each one of us operates in the framework of his own duties and we maintain a free and open dialogue.

Question: Do you brief him on all your moves?

Answer: Generally, yes.

Question: With your permission, we will move to another topic. Did you leave any message for King Husayn with President Mitterrand?

Answer: I can say that I discussed all issues with Mitterrand. The French president however, is not a postman. I spoke to him in his capacity as head of state, perhaps the most important state in Europe from the political point of view. We discussed all issues, but I did not ask him to perform any mission beyond that.

Question: Are there any chances for the meeting between yourself and King Husayn in the foreseeable future?

Answer: The problem is not that of a meeting between Husayn and myself, but one of opening negotiations between Jordan and Israel. Our invitations to Jordan have been made in the open, from the Knesset podium. I think the best way would be to hold a meeting between an Israeli and a Jordanian delegation. We will do our best to have such a meeting take place.

Question: Do you foresee a meeting with the Egyptian president soon?

Answer: I do not deal with prophecies. I proposed a meeting to the Egyptian president, and he said that such a meeting should be prepared for ahead of time. All right, we are trying to prepare for it.

Question: Are the preparations now at their height?

Answer: They are at the beginning.

Shamir on Domestic Issues, Jordan, Reactors

TA211144 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 84 p 14

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Ya'aqov Ha'elyon in the vice prime minister's office "a few hours before the SHAS crisis was resolved" on 19 December]

[Excerpt] Question: This interview was a priori intended to sum up the 100 days of the unity government — until this crisis came upon us, and was resolved [as published]. Could you enumerate the government's achievements thus far?

Answer: I was one of the initiators of the idea [of establishing a unity government], and I do not regret it. That was the only democratic solution following the elections. The first achievement was in actually establishing the government. After all, following the elections Israel's standing in the world plummeted. Enemies gloated; friends pitied us. After the unity government was set up, Israel's prestige shot upward throughout the democratic world. Even now, in Venezuela, when I met with a leader from the ruling party, who is a social science professor, he told me that he had introduced this Israeli experience — which is unique in the world — into his lecture syllabus. In the international arena, prestige carries a lot of weight.

Question: What about other spheres?

Answer: On the domestic scene, another election campaign was avoided. The tension around the internal war was reduced, allowing the state to find time to deal with the important issues, primarily the economic issue, although in that area we have not yet managed to score impressive achievements. Still, it is possible to say that the package deal has created a certain calm and prepared the ground for additional necessary rehabilitation measures.

Question: Are you not worried by rising unemployment?

Answer: This necessitates the existence of a government that can tackle the problem. If the unity government reaches a situation in which it adopts certain economic plans — even if they are very hard to implement — it will be able to implement them.

Question: You said that participation in the government does not terminate the clash with the Alignment. What clash were you referring to?

Answer: The ideological confrontation. This continues despite the fact that joint national activity continues and concentrates on areas agreed upon by the two camps. The question of Eretz Yisra'el remains a focus of differences.

Question: But the fact remains that in the 100 days, no new settlement has been established. Is this a tacit acceptance of the Alignment's policy?

Answer: There is no acceptance. It could have happened under a Likud government, too. We knew that the focus of attention these days is not on establishing new settlements, but on providing a stronger basis for the existing ones. However, there is an agreement on setting up five or six new ones during the year, and this resolution will be carried out.

Question: Meanwhile, the PLO is firming up its hold in Jordan, and establishing a basis there.

Answer: This worries me, although it is nevertheless not the kind of territorial base it had in Lebanon. Jordan has prevented this situation, and will continue to do so, realizing that this is dangerous to its existence. But the very expansion of PLO activity in Jordan can create dangerous developments: The creation of a kind of base for operations against Israel. Currently, we know that there are PLO offices in Jordan where anti-Israel terrorist operations are being planned, but, due to Jordan's policy, these activities are not being carried out from Jordanian territory across Israel's border. However, at some point the PLO people might not resist the temptation to ignore this ban.

Question: Mr Peres said that 6 months ago no one would have imagined any development such as King Husayn's readiness to conduct peace talks on the basis of Resolution No 242. This is progress, is it not?

Answer: Husayn did not specifically say 242. He talked about territories in return for peace. Here it was taken to mean 242. But we know that he means Israel's withdrawal to the 1967

borders, including Jerusalem, and the establishment of a Palestinian state as the first step toward realizing the Palestinian charter. One should not be dazed in assessing such declarations. This is not peace, but a threat to Israel's peace.

Question: And the Peres-Husayn exchange of messages?

Answer: This has nothing to do with the chances for peace.

Question: Will the Likud lend its hand to a unilateral withdrawal to the international border with Lebanon?

Answer: Negotiations with Lebanon cannot go on forever. We will have to find other ways to guarantee peace for the Galilee and pull the IDF out, namely security arrangements in the northern area that will prevent terrorists from returning and attacking northern Israel.

Question: What about the criticism of Minister Sharon's stay in the United States?

Answer: This is only part of the political strife underway in Israel.

Question: Peres disclosed that the issue of purchasing the nuclear power plants is the outcome of an earlier Likud government initiative. Will you support such a purchase?

Answer: We conducted negotiations over the purchase of the reactors, and in fact we reached a positive conclusion to the negotiations, which need only be finalized from the technical and financial aspects. Our approach was that Israel would have to purchase power plants in any event, and it would be desirable to diversify the sources of energy. It is important that Israel have a nuclear element among these sources.

Question: What did you bring back from your visits to Venezuela and Panama?

Answer: It was the first state visit by an Israeli foreign minister. I saw great enthusiasm and encountered great interest, because in that part of the world Israel is seen as a technological and agricultural superpower. The goals of the visit were achieved. We signed cooperation agreements in the spheres of agriculture and technology. Their implementation will help Israel in providing jobs and business for Israeli companies, and by opening new markets for Israeli exports.

Shamir Comments on Lebanon, Settlements

TA232109 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2055 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 23 Dec (ITIM) — "A quiet security strip that will be closed to terrorists and murderers is both a Lebanese and Israeli interest, and every Lebanese patriot should share Israel's aspirations on this," Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening in address to Herut Movement members in Ramat Gan.

Mr Shamir said that anyone in Lebanon who thinks that by shooting at an IDF soldier he is achieving anything of any value, must realize that this has no sense or purpose.

He said that no concession in Lebanon has helped, and the regional reality there does not change because of the views of Israeli parties.

Mr Shamir said that although we all grieve over every soldier who is hurt in Lebanon, we must not forsake even one civilian in the Galilee, and certainly not the entire large population of the Galilee.

Referring to settlements in the territories, the foreign minister said: "All the settlements whose establishment was decided upon will be set up. The coalition agreement stipulates that during the first year of the agreement five new settlements will be established in Israel, and they will be. We agreed that later more than 20 will be added to them."

He said that Likud agreed to a settlement slow-down now, since it is necessary to establish the existing settlements. Besides, this is also being done out of consideration of the other coalition partners.

Mr Shamir pointed out the importance of establishing the national unity government, saying that all the parts of the people are united in their resolve to carry out and implement what the Cabinet has decided. This, he said, is a necessary condition for success; without this, even the best government employing the best measures will not succeed. Mr Shamir also said that Likud did eveything to abolish the distinctions between the various social strata in Israel, adding that he will not let the bridges erected between the various ethnic groups, and between the inhabitants of towns and slum neighborhoods, disappear in the midst of the economic struggle.

He said we should all trim off excesses and lower the level of expenses — both the economically strong and weak — so that inequality and injustice do not return.

Rabin on Lebanon, Jordan, Defense Budget Cuts

TA211315 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 84 p 15

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by military correspondent Yosef Walter — date and place not given]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that if the Lebanese and the Syrians do not accept the principles of the Israeli plan, a unilateral decision will be inevitable. In that case, however, Israel would **not** attain its dual objective: security for the northern settlements and the IDF's pullout from Lebanon.

The defense minister also foresees difficulties in expanding the peace process with Jordan, a process he believes is necessary. If Jordan comes to the negotiations and Israel is called on to make decisions, the survival of the unity government will be in doubt.

If Lebanon and Syria persist in their opposition to expanding UNIFIL's role, there is no sense in continuing the dialogue at

Al-Naqurah, the defense minister says. The security arrangements that Syria and Lebanon are proposing at Al-Naqurah are unacceptable to Israel, Rabin notes. What they are actually suggesting is a return to the situation that existed before June 1982 in everything pertaining to UNIFIL's deployment.

Israel, Rabin argues, demands security arrangements based on two central elements: A deployment of UNIFIL in the entire area to be evacuated by the IDF, particularly north of the Al-Zahrani River; and a symbolic UNIFIL presence south of the Al-Zahrani River along with local Lebanese forces, whom we trust to be able to operate against all those trying to enter our territory and fire katyushas. Syria and Lebanon speak of the Lebanese Army filling the vacuum.

Therefore, Rabin adds, if the Lebanese and the Syrians do not accept the principles of our plan, there will be no choice other than proceeding on a different path, that of a unilateral decision. In that case, Israel would **not** attain its dual objective: Security for the northern settlements and the IDF's pullout from Lebanon. Rabin says we have three possibilities: hold the current line; withdraw to an interim line and stay there for a few years (after we have withdrawn from the current line to the interim line we would be left with hardly any bargaining cards); or return to the situation that existed before June 1982, namely, a comprehensive IDF withdrawal with an extension into the southern Lebanon area. None of these alternatives properly answer the current problems, but there is no other choice: There is no proper answer to Israel's problems in Lebanon, and we must choose the lesser of two evils, the defense minister says.

Question: The Al-Naqurah talks took off with Syria's approval. However, it is now once again entrenching itself behind its extreme positions. Where do you think Syria is headed?

Answer: About 2 months ago, we received some auspicious signs from the Syrians, but they now seem to have stiffened their position. This may well stem from developments such as 'Arafat's success in convening the PNC, the rapprochement between 'Arafat and Husayn, the resumption of relations between Jordan and Egypt and between Iraq and the United States, the feeling that a Cairo-Amman-Baghdad axis has been created, and the talk of a possible resumption of the political initiative for peace talks with Israel in the wake of the creation of that axis. All these have isolated Syria and represent an achievement for U.S. policy. Therefore, Syria has been attacking this axis and its policy, particularly in view of its fear that this might lead to a continuation of the U.S. initiative. The Syrian Ba'th convention took place over the weekend, and this also is one of the elements which have affected Damascus. Syria may have also arrived at the conclusion that Israel has no choice other than to adopt unilateral moves, in which case it would have to pay less for something it would get in any event.

Question: What do you think of Husayn's latest statements? Were you let in on the exchange of messages between Husayn and the prime minister? Does a new peace initiative, like the peace with Egypt, lie in store for us?

Answer: I know nothing about messages exchanged between Peres and Husayn beyond what has been published in the media, namely, that the Israeli Government has called on Husayn to engage in negotiations without preconditions. As for the situation in general: The political developments within the Arab world, the rapprochement between Egypt and Jordan, and the PLO's dependence on Egypt and Jordan — all these, along with Husayn's statements, create more convenient conditions for a possible resumption and expansion of the peace process. I believe, however, that Egypt wants first and foremost to return to the Arab world. I think it would be very difficult to develop any initiative if the Americans are not involved. To that end, two hurdles must first be removed: Israel's involvement in Lebanon and a thaw in the frozen relations between Israel and Egypt. I would not say such a development is not feasible in 1985.

In addition, there are some pertinent obstacles. The PLO has not yet authorized Husayn to enter negotiations with Israel, and I do not think Husayn would make such a move without the PLO's approval. The PLO has not accepted Husayn's call to adopt UN Resolution No 242 as the basis for continuing the peace process. Moreover, the Jordanian call for a peace conference under UN aegis and with the participation of all the pertinent parties, including the PLO, is unacceptable to us and I think also to the United States. Second, an international conference sponsored by the United Nations means there would be two chairmen, one from the United States and one from the Soviet Union. Such a configuration has never yielded any success; we have only attained results in two-way negotiations. Therefore, if Husayn insists on such a configuration, this is a fool-proof recipe for failure which neither the United States nor Israel can accept.

Regardless of the chances that Jordan may heed our appeal, Israel should reiterate its basic position: We are prepared for negotiations on peace, without preconditions, with Jordan, which I consider another partner in peace after Egypt.

Question: How will the cuts in the defense budget affect the IDF's strength and deterrent power?

Answer: The defense establishment recognizes the need to share in the efforts to restore the economy. The question is the extent to which security should be affected. Even what the General Staff proposed is unprecedented in the way it will affect Israel's security ability, alertness, and preparedness for the future. I would not like to be in a situation where decisions are made today that would place Israel in security difficulties within a few years. I think the Treasury's demands of the Defense Ministry are exaggerated. Let the Arab countries, however, entertain no illusions: Israel will have the necessary strength! When it comes to a public argument about the budget, I am faced with a dilemma: I cannot tell the public the significance of the cuts because I am afraid of the way our neighbors might interpret it.

I believe in the survival of the unity government despite the difficulties, but I have suffered several disappointments. First, I thought a national unity government would be less influenced by the demands of small parties. In other words, we thought that a partnership between the Alignment and Likud would neutralize the influence of the smaller parties and we would be able to concentrate on the burning national issues — and here I have been disappointed. I believe that, basically, a unity government

can deal with the recovery of Israel's economy, the problem of Lebanon, the thaw of the freeze with Egypt, but I see a problem regarding an expansion of the peace process with Jordan, not concerning the call on Jordan to join the negotiations, but about what will happen if Jordan joins the talks and we are called upon to make decisions. It is doubtful that we will be able to go on in such a case. If, in the framework of the national unity government, we manage to curb the economic deterioration and together we succeed in finding a solution to the military involvement in Lebanon and improving our relations with Egypt — I will see that as an achievement.

Weizman on Defense Budget Cuts, Peace With Egypt
TA231255 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1240 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 23 Dec (ITIM) — "The government should take calculated risks and cut the defense budget." This was said by Minister 'Ezer Weizman in a meeting with the council of the Labor Party's Mashov circle, the first meeting the minister has held with a Labor Party forum. On peace with Egypt, he said that Husni Mubarak is an Arab world leader and he therefore cannot understand the fear over the rapprochement between Mubarak and the Jordanian king. Weizman believes the State of Israel is not doing enough to strengthen its relations with Egypt, that the government should be more daring in this sphere. On Yahad's joining the Labor Party, Weizman said he is pleased with the partnership.

Rabin: Chance of Agreement With Lebanon 'Diminishing'
TA251328 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The defense minister said the chances of reaching an agreement with Lebanon in the Al-Naqurah talks are diminishing, and the Cabinet will soon have to make decisions. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that Minister Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that if the talks fail, Israel has three options: maintaining the current deployment, withdrawing to an interim line, or returning to the international border. He did not tell the committee which option he will recommend to the Cabinet.

The defense minister also disclosed that during the negotiations in Al-Naqurah, Syria's stand had toughened.

In the discussion following Rabin's address, there was a difference of opinion between those opposing a unilateral withdrawal, Likud and Tehiya members, and those favoring a unilateral withdrawal, with its various nuances, the Alignment and the Citizens Rights Movement.

IDF Sources: Rabin May Propose Partial Pullback
TA251729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Senior IDF sources believe that if a breakthrough is not made in the Al-Naqurah talks, the defense minister will recommend a partial withdrawal, at least in the western sector. Quoting these sources, our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, reports that the proposal for a partial withdrawal is the most feasible option available to the IDF. At the same time, the General Staff is taking pains to present the politicians with recommendations that are based only on professional considerations.

Netanyahu: Lebanon's Attitude 'Unconstructive'
TA250558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United Nations says the threat by four countries participating in UNIFIL to leave the force is due to Lebanon's unconstructive attitude at the Al-Naqurah talks. Speaking to reporters in New York, Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu also said that hopes for the revival of the Al-Naqurah talks are diminishing rapidly. Judy Lessing reports from New York:

[Begin recording] [Lessing] Ambassador Netanyahu says he has met with Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, who recognizes the importance of getting a more constructive approach.

[Netanyahu] I think that both the secretary general and others who are involved in this are aware of the difficulties here, aware of eliciting the difficult response from the Lebanese Government, and he promised to me that he would make every effort to achieve some progress in the few days that remain before the 7th of January.

[Lessing] The statement by Norway, Finland, Fiji, and Ireland reflect their frustration as a general feeling that if the Lebanese are not serious about negotiating there is little for the contributing UNIFIL countries to do, because essentially they are in the area to take care of Lebanon's interests, Ambassador Netanyahu said. If the Lebanese are not interested in getting a reasonable security position, there is little reason for UNIFIL to stay, he said. Lebanon knows that the sole condition Israel has before withdrawing its forces is to get security arrangements so terrorism will not resume, so now it is up to the Lebanese, the Israeli ambassador said. [end recording]

Ambassador Netanyahu also said that there have recently been informal contacts between Israeli diplomats and representatives of Arab countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. He said that the contacts took place during the recent General Assembly session on the Middle East.

Labor Knesset Members Supports Unilateral Withdrawal
TA250533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said Israel is interested in getting out of Lebanon quickly while ensuring security arrangements including the south Lebanese army and UNIFIL. Peres was addressing a meeting of the Labor-Alignment caucus in the Knesset, where an increasing number of Labor members are calling for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] The chairman of the caucus, Refa'el Edri, called on the government to decide by the 7th of January on a unilateral Israeli withdrawal if no agreement is reached with the Lebanese. The 7th of January is the date on which the Al-Naqurah talks are due to be resumed.

Edri's view is supported by Simcha Dinitz, Hayim Ramon, Ora Namir, and Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer. Dinitz said: We are spilling blood while the Syrians are spilling ink. Hayim Ramon said: Israel has to set a target date for getting out of Lebanon. Dinitz and Ben-Eli'ezer both stressed that a withdrawal must be all the way to the international border, and that a partial withdrawal would be worse than the present situation. Ben-Eli'ezer said: It is an illusion to imagine that the south Lebanese army can control a strip any wider than 5 to 7 km from the border. Dinitz said Israel should make Beirut conditions similar to those existing in 1982, before the war.

However, Jacques Amirhcame out against a unilateral withdrawal unless the conditions in Lebanon were suitable.

In his reply, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres did not give very much away. He did not say whether the government would adopt the decision on unilateral withdrawal or when. The government's policy is that Israel is interested in getting out as quickly as possible, Peres said, while ensuring suitable security arrangements including the south Lebanese army and UNIFIL.

This policy was adopted with the concurrence of the defense minister and all the other ministers, Peres said. Complete coordination has been established with UNIFIL and the United States and this was an achievement. There had been a radical change in Israel's image, Peres declared, and this was important with regard to Israel's relations with the United States and Europe. [end recording]

Group Wants To Settle in Southern Lebanon
TA250559 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] A nucleus for a settlement in Lebanon is being formed in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Shalom Oren has learned that there are 20 people in this nucleus, and their aim is to settle in southern Lebanon. The members of the team have been meeting for some time in order to consolidate the nucleus.

Knesset Approves Peretz, Burg as Cabinet Ministers
TA241847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] With a large majority of coalition votes, the Knesset today confirmed the appointment of Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz as interior minister and Dr Yosef Burg as religious affairs minister. Two coalition members, Rabbi Manahem Hakohen and Mordekhay Virshubsky, were absent in protest. The Tehiya Party abstained and the other opposition parties voted against it. Immediately afterwards, Rabbi Peretz took the oath as interior minister in the government.

Labor Party Official Meets With Ghali in Cairo
TA251659 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The head of the Labor Party's Foreign Relations Department, Yisra'el Gat, today conferred in Cairo with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that sources in Cairo believe one of the issues discussed at the meeting was the possibility of a meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Peres.

Political Sources Call UCTUBAR Editorial 'Very Grave'
TA261110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Jerusalem political circles have said that the contents of the editorial by *UCTUBAR* editor-in-chief Anis Mansur, published last week, are very grave. The sources told our political correspondent that this is in fact a call to war against Israel, adding that instead of deepening peace and embedding this idea in the minds of the Egyptian people, the editor of a respectable newspaper that is closely associated with the establishment finds it proper to urge war against Israel. In an editorial, Anis Mansur wrote that as long as we are living honorably, we will shed our blood to struggle and fight for the establishment of Palestine on the remnants of Israel.

Craxi Writes to Peres About Talks With 'Arafat
TA250635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres briefed the Labor Knesset caucus in yesterday's meeting that he has received a letter from the Italian Prime Minister. In this letter, Bettino Craxi reports on his talks with Yasir 'Arafat, and makes the assessment that to date the PLO is unwilling to begin a dialogue with Israel.

ALGERIA

Mauritanian Minister Brings Message for President

LD231521 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Algiers, 23 Dec (APS) — The Mauritanian foreign minister, 'Ahmed Ould Babamine, arrived in Algiers at noon today carrying a message from the Mauritanian President Maayouia Ould Taya to President Chadli Bendjedid. He was met at the airport by Nourredine Harbi, vice minister in charge of cooperation.

Meets With Bendjedid

LD241622 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Algiers 24 Dec (APS) — President Chedli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, this morning received Mr Cheikh Ould Babamine, the Mauritanian foreign minister, who carried to the president a message from the Mauritanian head of state Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya.

The meeting was attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, and by the Mauritanian charge d'affaires in Algiers.

Al-Maqhur Delivers Libyan Oil Message to Bendjedid

LD231105 Tripoli JANA in English 0947 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Algiers, Rabi Thani 1, December 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid received yesterday evening Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur, the assistant secretary of the Arab-African Union, who handed him a letter from the leader of the revolution regarding the need to coordinate oil policies amongst the member states of OPEC.

Taking part in this meeting were Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and responsible for the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, Abdelkader Ben Kaci, responsible for the international relations and cooperation section at the Office of the President of the Republic and the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria.

It is noteworthy that the leader of the revolution has entrusted Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur, the assistant secretary of the Arab-African Union, and Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, with the task of handing messages to the leaders of the member countries of OPEC concerning the necessity of coordinating oil policies amongst the member states of the organisation.

USSR's Gorshkov Visits Naval Shipyard

PM231413 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 13 Dec 84 p 12

[APS report: "Admiral S.G. Gorshkov visits Mers el-Kebir Naval Construction and Repair Enterprise"]

[Text] Oran — Admiral S.G. Gorshkov, commander in chief of the Navy and USSR deputy defense minister, who has been in Oran department since Tuesday evening, visited the Mers el-Kebir naval construction and repair enterprise yesterday.

The commander in chief of the Soviet Navy, who was accompanied by the Soviet ambassador to Algiers, was welcomed at the entrance to the enterprise by the commander of the naval base.

Admiral Gorshkov then reviewed a detachment of the People's National Army before greeting senior officers. After listening to a description of the various activities of the naval construction and repair enterprise, Admiral S.G. Gorshkov toured the establishment's main workshops.

The commander in chief of the Soviet navy and the military delegation accompanying him were due to return to Algiers in the afternoon.

LIBYA

Turkish Paper Interviews Al-Qadhdhafi

NC241120 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 14 Dec 84 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Chief of State Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by *MILLIYET* Chief Editor Mehmet Barlas in Tripoli — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Barlas] If you wish, we shall tackle political issues first and discuss Turkish-Libyan economic relations later. According to reports from Greek sources, you support the cause of the Greek Cypriots. I would like to explain to you Turkey's views on Cyprus. We Turks say Cyprus should be an independent and nonaligned country. There must be neither American nor British bases in Cyprus. Moreover, Cyprus must preserve its Islamic identity and character, for one-third [as published] of the people of the island are Muslim Turks. We Turks oppose the division of the island between Turkey and Greece. Under such circumstances, Turkey would be surrounded by Greece. Despite all of this, the Greeks say, "Al-Qadhdhafi supports us."

[Al-Qadhdhafi] If this is Turkey's attitude, I support it. I'll take this opportunity to tell you that Greece has changed. Greece is not the Greece you know. It is important that this be published in your paper. Greece first changed from monarchy to democracy and from bourgeois democracy to socialist democracy. It has changed a lot. Turkey must make a proper assessment of this change. The ruling party in Greece today is not a hostile and anti-Turkey party. This party harbors no enmity at all toward Turkey. Greece is our friend. But Turkey is not just our friend, it is our brother, too. Papandreou is our friend. We can benefit from this situation. Libya can be of assistance to Turkey and Greece in the final settlement of their problems. Turgut Ozal is both our friend and our brother. Papandreou is a friend, too.

Libya can bring them together. You can publish this in your paper and thus bring it to the attention of your people. Libya can mediate and contribute to the solution of the disputes between the two countries.

[Barlas] Have you discussed this with Papandreou?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Naturally I have. We have also discussed this with Ozal. Both sides have good intentions. This is what we wish to see. I have discovered that the United States is the one which is playing a destructive role in the relations between the two countries.

[Barlas] Are you sure you are not mistaken? During the elections I happened to be in Greece. I have since gone there twice. I must tell you that no Turkish journalist has managed to secure a session with Papandreou, because he is determined not to receive Turkish journalists. He prefers to leave questions put to him by Turkish journalists at press conferences unanswered, because he says he does not want to talk to the Turks. He says, for instance, "We do not want any foreign base in our territory," and one thinks, "What a true socialist this man is." But one hears later that "he has signed a new 5-year agreement with the United States in Greece." His aim is to grab more money. As a journalist, I feel that Papandreou is behaving like a cheap politician. However, when I saw you standing next to Papandreou in Crete, I said to myself, "the colonel must know something." I thought you might have discovered a virtue in Papandreou. But you are probably making a mistake. Papandreou is staging a show for the sake of the forthcoming elections. It is not true that he is a socialist. All the billionaire shipowners are still in Athens. Papandreou is not a socialist.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] (after a hearty laugh) I can put you on good terms.

[Barlas] Honorable Al-Qadhdhafi, as I also mentioned in my newspaper, the best answer to be given to those who accuse you of supporting terrorism is the work you have provided to the Turkish contractors, engineers, and workers in Libya. Thanks to this cooperation, you have contributed not to terrorism but to the economic development of 50 million Turks in Turkey. In return, Turkey has contributed to the development of Libya with its know-how and technology.

However, I would like to point out that both Turks and Libyans with whom I have talked, particularly in the private sector, dwell on certain difficulties.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Such as?

[Barlas] Because of the economic crisis, Turkish contractors encounter difficulties in receiving their earned wages. This situation gives rise to worries over the future of 50,000 Turkish workers. At this point, there is a problem that worries me. The South Koreans are gradually obtaining a greater share of the construction work. You dwell so much on Islamic solidarity. Not only are the South Koreans not Muslims, in the classical sense, they don't even have a religion. Nevertheless, you have awarded them the biggest contracts, such as the "Great River Project," despite the fact that they are atheists.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] (a big laugh)...

[Barlas] Moreover, you keep attacking the the United States and yet the "Great River Project" is being drafted by American firms and carried out by South Koreans. Drafting is done by Americans. Isn't there a paradox between this attitude of yours and your general policy?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] (another laugh) We are awarding these contracts to the Koreans because there is a big difference in the price of the tenders they submit. They offer comparatively much cheaper prices than the Turkish firms.

[Balas] Would you award these contracts to the Turks if they offered cheap prices?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Under such circumstances, the Turks would have priority.

[Barlas] A very big project has been given to two Turkish firms. The Enka and the Dogus firms will build Brega town. These firms started business in Turkey and expanded in Libya, which has come about as a result of Turkish-Libyan collaboration. Now these firms have begun to grow on a worldwide scale. Why aren't you planning to develop this idea and to make it possible for the Turkish and Libyan firms to work in partnership for the creation of larger institutions?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We are ready for this and we are going to do it. At this moment, the firms have problems because of the oil crisis. If payment in oil is considered, we can review the situation. But the prices must be such that would compete with those of the Koreans.

[Barlas] If you could introduce in the Libyan administrative mechanism a system of paying in oil, I believe that Turkey would agree to such a system, for the Turkish firms owe $120 million to Turkish workers employed in Libya. This is due to the delay in the payment of earned wages. You can imagine the plight of the families of these workers in Turkey.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is due to the economic crisis.

[Barlas] But this sitaution affects hundreds of thousands of people in Turkey.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The source of the problem is the difficulty encountered in the sale of oil.

[Barlas] Give oil instead of money, then.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Under these circumstances, the problems can be resolved.

Interview Continued

NC241124 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 15 Dec 84 pp 1,7

[Interview with Chief of State Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by *MILLIYET* Chief Editor Mehmet Barlas in Tripoli — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Barlas] Honorable Al-Qadhdhafi, you are concerned about all the problems of the Islamic world. But we do not really know where you stand on the Iran-Iraq conflict.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I opposed Iran when it was ruled by the shah. He was an ally of the Americans and in their sphere of influence. He used to give oil to Israel and South Africa. In those days Saddan Husayn and I were against the shah, so much so that we even wanted to fight the shah. However, later Saddam Husayn signed an agreement with the shah in Algeria. He handed Shatt al-'Arab to the shah and put an end to his problems with him. Nevertheless, we continued our cry for a revolution against the shah. Eventually the revolution took place. This revolution was against the United States and Israel. The revolutionaries were our natural allies. During this period, Saddam launched a war against Iran. During the rule of the shah, Saddam cooperated with the revolutionaries. We continued to be on the side of the revolution. We could not have betrayed our principles. Naturally we are against this war. We tried at the beginning to stop it. But as the war continues, we are on the side of the revolution. I hope that this war comes to an end, but it is beyond our control.

[Barlas] We Turks are grieved to see these two friendly neighbors of ours slaughtering each other. Can't you push the past aside and try to bring them to terms?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have just told you. I tried at the beginning of the conflict, but I failed. Now it is impossible.

[Barlas] Will this war never end?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That is not so. The end of this war is nearer than going back [as published]. Moreover, Saddam has been behaving in a hostile manner against Libya. He embraces anti-Libyan terrorists. He refuses to return terrorists wanted by Interpol. He receives them personally. Publish this in *MILLIYET* so that he can read it.

[Barlas] Since you have touched upon the question of terrorism, Armenian terrorists have killed 42 Turkish diplomats so far. What would you say to this?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Where is Armenia? Let us have a look at the atlas.

[Barlas] (producing a map) Here is Soviet Armenia, on the other side of the Turkish border. These terrorists maintain that you support them.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Even if there is justification, we cannot accept the assassination of diplomats and innocent people. I support the independence of all nations. I am against the oppression of minorities. I support only justified causes. I am in favor of the integrity of all nations in the Middle East, of the minorities, too. That is how I look at the Kurdish and Armenian issues. I am in favor of the territorial integrity of all nations in the Middle East. I support minorities, too. I view the Kurdish and Armenian questions in the same way.

[Barlas] For instance, there is a Kurdish minority in Iran. Are you in favor of Iran being divided for the sake of the Kurds?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am not talking about a specific country. I am referring to the sovereignty and independence of the Kurds.

[Barlas] There is the question of Palestine, which has not been resolved since 1947. Is it not dangerous for the stability of the region to embark on new adventures? Moreover, there are many groups in the world which come under your definition of minority. For instance, the Soviet Union is a country where there are many minorities. About 60 million people of Turkic origin live there. There are the Kazakhs and others. At present, countries like Libya and leaders like Al-Qadhdhafi do not have the strength to exercise any pressure on countries like the Soviet Union on the issue of minorities.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The failure of these minorities to resolve their problems is due to their inability to carry out an armed campaign.

[Barlas] Do you hope that the minorities in the Soviet Union will arm themselves and vindicate their rights? Will there be a revolution in the Soviet Union?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is not the solution I suggest. If there are Turks in the Soviet Union, they have a right to return to their fatherland. The Armenians in the United States could do the same thing. If Kurds are living in other lands, they, too, must return to their land.

[Barlas] What you are saying does not concern Turkey. In our country, we do not discriminate between Turks and Kurds. Fifty million Turks are cooperating for the integrity and development of their country.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am against the division of countries. I support the independence of all nations. All nations in the Middle East must live in friendship.

[Barlas] We are a country with a long history. We have a great deal of experience. The superpowers have a tendency to exploit the minorities in the Middle East. This happened in the past and it is happening now. Is it not the superpowers who created the Israeli situation? Everybody must draw a moral lesson from this. Even the shah of Iran, whom you disliked, used the Kurds against Iraq. Barzani fled to the Soviet Union in 1946 and took refuge in the shah's Iran in 1970. The shah, whom you accuse of being pro-American, used to send arms to the Iraqi Kurds. When it suits them the superpowers wish to stir up trouble in Turkey as well.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Let me read to you the section in my Green Book which concerns minorities.

[Barlas] I have read your book four times. I am familiar with it. (Al-Qadhdhafi broke into laughter and went on to read the section about minorities all the same. Then he signed his book and gave it to me.)

Interview Concluded
NC241157 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 16 Dec 84 pp 1,12

[Interview with Chief of State Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by *MILLIYET* Chief Editor Mehmet Barlas in Tripoli — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Barlas] Honorable Al-Qadhdhafi, we know that you do not have much affection for President Reagan. However, since being reelected, President Reagan has opened the way to a dialogue with the Soviet Union. The U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister are preparing to get together to discuss the termination of the nuclear arms race. That is, Reagan wants peace and an improvement of relations. Does this situation worry you? When the superpowers come closer together and start bargaining, smaller states, too, are brought to the bargaining table. They begin to bargain over the fate of states and human beings.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] (after pondering for a while) Naturally, small states are afraid of the superpowers. They are scared of agreements between them. Detente is realized at our expense. Small countries are made to pay the costs. This relaxation between the superpowers is not enough. It should apply to the entire world. Otherwise, detente does not mean the prevention of conflicts. The superpowers create local skirmishes and export their differences to small nations. Moreover, their agreement does not last long. Such agreements are temporary. We must realize that the world has entered a period with unprecedented dangers. These dangers have become a reality, particularly since Reagan assumed power in the United States.

[Barlas] With this, are you referring to a specific event?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am referring to the medium-range missiles equipped with warheads deployed in Europe. This is the first time the world has entered such a dangerous phase. It is clear that the Soviet Union is facing danger. The danger the Soviet Union is facing is greater than that of the United States. The Soviet Union cannot come to terms with the United States unless the medium-range missiles issue is resolved. The Soviet Union is now determining where to deploy its own missiles against those of the United States. It is obvious that the Soviet Union is determined. The only solution is to deploy similar missiles of the same range at places where they could hit the United States. There would then be a balance. Now the world is going through the tension of this danger.

[Barlas] I thank you very much for inviting me to Libya and chatting with me. Have you anything to say to the Turkish nation and to the readers of *MILLIYET*?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] When Turks and Arabs marched hand in hand, they created civilizations and won victories. We have always defeated the crusaders and adventurers whenever we were united. When the Turks and the Arabs fell into disunity, we became again victims of the crusades. The Israeli and Zionist movements should be viewed from the same angle. They have always tried to divide the Turks and the Arabs. We must unite in order to repeat old victories.

[Barlas] I saw Prime Minister Ozal before coming here; he said he attributed great importance to Turkish-Libyan economic cooperation and solidarity. He stressed that he expected your support in matters of exports and contract services. He has sent his greetings to you and asked me to tell you that he relies a great deal on the Libyan contribution to Turkey's efforts for economic recovery.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Turkey has a special place in our hearts. We are prepared to help Prime Minsiter Ozal in every possible way.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives King Hassan Envoy
LD252353 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1917 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Tripoli 25 Dec (JANA) — The brother commander of the revolution this evening received King Hassan II's envoy, Abdelhakim Laraki, who conveyed to him a message from the king of Morocco.

Foreign Secretary Comments on Regional Issues
LD230002 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has affirmed that the rifle is the only way to liberate Jerusalem and return Palestine to its rightful owners, and that the Jamahiriyah supports the unity of the fighting Palestinian rifle.

At a press conference held today in Sanaa, he said that the policy of surrender and abasement and the humiliating Camp David agreements will not resolve the Palestinian issue. Concerning the return of Egypt to the Arab nation fold, he said: We hold in esteem the great people of Egypt and their sacrifices for the sake of the Arab nation. We welcome the return of a free Egypt — an Egypt that makes sacrifices and not a capitulationist Egypt.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison lauded the sacrifices of the Lebanese people and their struggle against the Zionist enemy. He called on the people of Egypt to follow the example of the people of Lebanon and tear up the Camp David agreements.

On the Arab-African union between the Jamahiriyah and Morocco, he explained that this union is a mortar in the edifice of the unity of the Arab Maghreb and ultimately the all-embracing Arab unity. He said: In the Jamahiriyah we reject division and we advocate a single Arab state from the Gulf to the ocean, because the strength of the Arabs lies in their unity.

Concerning the Iraq-Iran war, he stressed that the Jamahiriyah has been working to end this war so that energies can be mobilized to confront the common enemy. The brother secretary of

the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stressed that the Jamahiriyah works to strengthen the Islamic Conference Organization for the sake of the Islamic world's unity so that it can confront its enemies — imperialists and Zionists — who are lying in wait for it.

The secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison denounced the slanderous allegations of the underling Numayri against Libya. He said the underling Numayri is using these allegations to disguise his collapse and detract attention away from the deteriorating economic, political, and social situation in Sudan and the growing popular uprising against the regime.

Concerning the Cypriot issue and the Jamahiriyah's stand, the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison affirmed that the Jamahiriyah supports the unity of the people of Cyprus and their sovereignty, security, and stability.

MAURITANIA

Missions Sent Abroad To Explain Reasons for Coup

AB241155 Paris AFP in French 0819 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Nouakchott, 24 Dec (AFP) — The new Mauritanian leaders have sent information missions to several countries of Africa and the Middle East to explain the reasons for the overthrow of former President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala on 12 December 1984. A first mission led by Major Cheikh Sid Ahmed Ould Babamine, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Nouakchott on Sunday for Algiers and Tunis. Other missions will go to several countries today, notably Senegal, Mali, and Saudi Arabia.

SUDAN

President Numayri Reshuffles Cabinet 25 Dec

JN251503 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Dec

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Dec (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri carried out a cabinet reshuffle today, appointing the following ministers:

1. Dr 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abd al-Wahhab as minister of finance and economci planning.

2. Fawzi Ibrahim Wasfi as minister of cooperation, commerce, and supply.

3. 'Uthman al-Shaykh Muhammad as minister of state for finance and economic planning.

4. Yusuf Muhammad 'Abdallah as minister of state for cooperation, commerce, and supply.

5. 'Abd al-Qadir Sulayman as minister of state for industry.

President Numayri also issued a presidential decree appointing Dr 'Abd al-Malik 'Abdallah al-Ji'li, as head of the Higher Council for Religious and Awqaf Affairs.

The post of minister of finance and economic planning was formerly held by Ibrahim Mun'im Mansur. The post of minister of cooperation, commerce, and supply was formerly held by Ja'far Hasan Salih. The post of head of the Higher Council for Religious and Awqaf Affairs was formerly held by Dr Yusuf al-Khalifah Abu Bakr.

New Ministers Sworn In

JN261459 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 26 Dec (SUNA) — The following new ministers and ministers of state who were appointed yesterday were sworn in before President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri at noon today: Fawzi Ibrahim Wasfi, Dr 'Abd al-Malik 'Abdallah al-Ji'li, 'Uthamn al-Shaykh Muhammad, Yusuf Muhammad 'Abdallah, and 'Abd al-Qadir Sulayman.

2 Ministers Dismissed

JN251500 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Dec (SUNA) — Muhammad al-Bashir al-Waqi and 'Umar Muhammad Yasin were dismissed today from their posts of minister of industry, and minister of state for political affairs at the presidency, respectively.

Numayri Dismisses SSU Committee Official

JN251458 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1453 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Dec (SUNA) — SSU Chairman Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, taking cognizance of SSU rules, today issued a decision dismissing Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad from his post as secretary of the SSU Political and Social Affairs Committee.

Heavy Fighting Reported in Southern Town of Juba

NC220635 Paris AFP in English 0611 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Paris, Dec 22 (AFP) — Heavy fighting is raging between government troops and rebels in the southern Sudan town of Juba, a rebel spokesman said in a telephone call to AFP Friday.

The spokesman, London-based Steven Baak of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, said the situation had prevented a scheduled flight bound for Kenya from landing at Juba.

Mr Baak reaffirmed his movement's offer that four foreign hostages held since last February could be freed by Christmas for "humanitarian reasons."

He said an impressive array of officials were among several hundred people who had come over to the rebel side in Upper Nile Province in the past few days. The rebels, he said, would not negotiate with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, whom they accuse of violating peace agreements ending the south's long rebellion.

Minister Denies Fall of Town

GF251040 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Dec (WAKH) — Mr 'Ali Muhammad Shammu, Sudanese information minister and official spokesman of the Sudanese Government, has denied the reports transmitted by the BBC and some news agencies about the fall of the city of Juba, capital of the southern Sudanese province, into the hands of rebels.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'* published today, Mr Shammu said that these reports are completely untrue and described them as unfair to Sudan.

He stressed that the Sudanese Armed Forces are currently sweeping the rebel areas in the township of Bor.

Mr Shammu pointed out the recent decision to release a number of political detainees, including Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi, leader of Al-Ummah party, and said: This step came out of conviction and without any mediation.

He added that the march of national unity which was announced by President Ja'far Numayri is continuing and that what happened simply was that the detention was an action necessitated by certain circumstances, and that these circumstances have now ended.

The Sudanese information minister denied the rumors that an agreement was reached between the authorities and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by which the latter would be placed in a post having principal authority during a ministerial reshuffle in the next few days.

Opposition Radio Reports Ambush on 'Enemy' Convoy

EA221804 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel (P.H.G. Martin) [last name indistinct] conducted a successful ambush between Bor and Juba yesterday, December 21st. The enemy sent 8 (Mergirus) trucks full of soldiers and 1 tank in an apparent attempt to find 80 foreigners under SPLA protection. A company from Rhino Battalion under Lieutenant Beng Kuot ambushed the convoy and destroyed the first three trucks killing all the people inside them. Only two SPLA heroes were wounded in this ambush. The remaining five (Mergirus) trucks and one tank tried to return to Bor but were ambushed by another company of Rhino Battalion under Lieutenant (Deng Akwei Kor).

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Reports Killing 135 Moroccans in 22 Dec Attack

LD232153 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] A communique by the SDAR Ministry of Information and Culture said that the Saharan People's Liberation Army launched a violent attack in the Al-Mahbas area yesterday, resulting in 285 royalist Moroccan casualties, including 135 killed, as well as destruction of 45 vehicles and important quantities of heavy weapons.

The communique said that several Moroccan positions along the whole length of the so-called protective wall have been attacked by the Saharan forces from 9 to 19 December.

The Saharan fighters also attacked three Moroccan positions in the El-Aargub and (Tashkatnet) area. The communique added that other positions of the royalist army have been shelled intensively and this killed 34 invading soldiers, injured 50 others, and destroyed an ammunition dump.

The Saharan communique noted in conclusion that the greater Arab Maghreb offensive still continues most successfully in face of the stubborn refusal of the Moroccan regime to open direct talks with the SDAR in accordance with the resolutions of international organizations and the peace plan of the OAU and the United Nations.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Returns From Cuba, USSR 24 Dec

EA242214 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee, chairman of the PMAC and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, arrived in Addis Ababa this evening at the end of his official visits to Cuba, the USSR, the GDR, and the socialist Republic of Bulgaria.

Our comrade revolutionary leader was met on arrival at Bole International Airport by Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; WPE Central Committee Politburo members and WPE Central Committee members; ministers; senior officials; and the ambassadors of various countries to Revolutionary Ethiopia. Two children presented bouquets to our comrade revolutionary leader. The honor guard then presented arms and were inspected.

Those who arrived with our comrade revolutionary leader included Comrade Adis Tedla, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the National Committee for Central Planning; Ashagre Yigletu, member of the Secretariat and of the WPE Central Committee; Goshu Wolde, member of the WPE Central Committee and foreign minister; and Mengistu Gemechu, member of the WPE Central Committee and special assistant to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam.

External Trade Minister Returns From USSR

EA251430 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0930 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The delegation led by Comrade Wollie Chekol, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee member and minister of external trade, arrived in Addis Ababa this morning after attending the fifth meeting of the Ethiopian-Soviet joint commission in Moscow and signing agreements. Comrade Wollie said on arrival that during the 15-day meeting of the joint economic, trade and technical cooperation commission new agreements were signed after reviewing the 10-year perspective plan and thework done since the fourth regular meeting, and laying down work programs for next year.

Comrade Wollie said the meeting had focused on the current drought in Ethiopia, agriculture, irrigation, industry, construction and trade. He said agreement had been reached on strengthening earlier projects in the agricultural sector and on initiating new ones.

SOMALIA

Radio Halgan Reports Opposition Attacks

EA242028 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Reports from the battle zone say the Somali National Movement [SNM] wing of the Somali opposition forces made a very successful attack on 20 December 1984 on seven bases of the forces of the dictatorial regime of General Siad Barre in the Awdal, northwest, and Togdheer regions of Somalia. The SNM fighters crushed the bases belonging to the General Siad Barre troops in Baledid, Durruqsi, (Jamac Qabar), Bissihga, and (Goroyo Xun) villages of Togdheer region, and in Tog Wajaale and (Qolujeed) of Awdal and northwest regions of Somalia.

In the attack launched by the SNM fighters on Baledid village, over 90 percent of the enemy forces were either killed or wounded.

In the attack launched by the SNM fighters on Durruqsi, 115 enemy soldiers were killed and over 300 wounded.

In the attack on the Baledid and Durruqsi bases belonging to the General Siad Barre troops the SNM fighters destroyed 11 pieces ~~of~~ heavy military equipment, including T-55 tanks, armored personnel carriers, antiaircraft guns and pieces of artillery. The SNM fighters captured 11 various technical pieces, comprising two (?PM's), a T-55 tank, an armored personnel carrier, a jeep mounted with a 106-mm field gun, four big trucks, a Toyota Land Cruiser and a Land Rover. The SNM fighters also captured a very large quantity of ammunition and rations.

During their attacks on Baledid and Durruqsi villages, the SNM fighters lost seven martyrs and 12 were wounded.

Reports on the outcome of the attacks launched by the SNM fighters on (Jamac Qabar), Bissihga, (Goroyo Xun), Tog Wajaale and (Qolujeed) will be released later.

CHAD

150 CDR Elements Integrated Into Government Army

AB242235 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 184. GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpts] This morning 150 elements of the Revolutionary Democratic Council [CDR] — the equivalent of a company — were officially integrated into a unit of the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] at Ati. Our brothers, who were in the opposition, rallied to the legal government following the intensive contact meetings with the opposition launched by a joint commission of government and of the National Consultative Council in the east and the center of the country.

These soldiers were given FANT uniforms and are ready to defend the fatherland. The ceremony was presided over by the minister delegate to the President of the Republic in Charge of National Defense, Veterans Affairs, and War Victims in the presence of Tahar Guinassou, the leader of the joint delegation; Dr Brahim (Taifou), secretary of state for planning and reconstruction, and many other officials.

The minister delegate to the Presidency in charge of national defense, veterans affairs, and war veterans placed a particular emphasis on the fact that Chadians can understand each other. Some time ago, such a ceremony took place at [name indistinct], and today is Ati. The sons of Chad have thus proved that it is possible to put an end to hostilities through negotiations. Listen to Tahar Guinassou:

[Begin recording] On the occasion of this ceremony, marking the integration into the FANT of our CDR brothers who have come back to the great Chadian family, I would like to convey to you the fraternal greetings of His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the republic and chairman of the National Union for Independence and Reconciliation.

Dear brothers and sisters from Ati, as you are aware, following 7 June 1982, the Government of the Third Republic, which is eager to foster the supreme interest of the nation, expressed its determination to strengthen peace and security, without which any development in Chad is impossible. This is why it enshrined in its program a twofold policy: national reconciliation and unity.

This policy of dialogue was translated into facts with meetings with our brothers in the opposition both inside and outside the country, especially in Libreville, Franceville, Tripoli, Addis Ababa, and Brazzaville. In spite of the will of the government and of His Excellency Hissein Habre, who personally went to Libreville and Franceville, our brothers in the pay of Al-Qadhdhafi foiled the various reconciliation conferences on Chad.

People of Ati, sisters and brothers, make every effort to facilitate the return of our brothers from the south into the great family. We all know that our country remains in the permanent threat of annihilation by the expansionist ambitions of Al-Qadhdhafi's regime, which fosters this deadly war. We must all together overcome this challenge imposed on us from abroad. [end recording]

ZAIRE

Rwandan, Equatorial Guinea Presidents Arrive

AB241753 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1702 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Gbadolite, 24 Dec (AZAP) — The president of Equatorial Guinea and Mrs Obiang Nguema Mbassogo, arrived in Gbadolite from Maputo [as received] early Monday afternoon. The Equatorial Guinean president, who arrived in Gbadolite shortly after his Rwandan counterpart, Mr Habyrimana, is joining his Zairian brother to celebrate Christmas in the capital of subregion of Nord-Ubangi.

The two African presidents were welcomed on arrival at the Moanda airport by the founding chairman of the party, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko and Mama Bobi La Dawa. A military detachment from the Kotakoli commando training center rendered honors to the two presidents who, shortly after their arrival, watched in turns cultural presentation by the activitist group of the subregion.

Aid Pacts for Food, Development Signed With UN, West

EEC Makes Cereals Grant

AB241848 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1740 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 24 Dec (AZAP) — The European Economic Community decided last week to give Zaire 12,000 tons of cereals within the framework of a food aid program. The aid, which is worth 1,844,000 European Currency Units [ECU] (1 ECU equals $0.7), falls within the framework of the EEC 1984 program, it was learned at the headquarters of the EEC Commission in Kinshasa. According to the same source, the modalities for the utilization of the food aid, which is part of Zaire-EEC program of cooperation outside the framework of the European Development Fund, will be agreed upon later by the two partners.

Accords With UNDP, FAO, Canada

AB241654 Paris AFP in French 1222 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 23 Dec (AFP) — Zaire and Canada signed a special arrangement on Saturday in the Zairian capital according to which Ottawa pledged to supply Kinshasa with basic products for a value of 5 million Canadian dollars. Proceeds from the sale of these products will serve to feed the Zaire-Canada counterpart development fund, stated the protocol, which was signed by Mr Lengema Dulia, the Zairian secretary of state for international cooperation, and Mr E.W. Hare, the Canadian ambassador to Zaire.

On the same day, the Zairian secretary of state signed two additional agreements with the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] and the FAO, according to which these two organizations will grant the Zairian Government a total amount of $1.9 million meant for financing a certain number of projects. The projects in question are, the project for the improvement of administrative and financial management of parastatal enterprises, the support project for the implementation of Zaire's

educational reform, feasibility studies for the production of manual hydraulic pumps and for agro-pastoral and animal production development in North Kivu in the east of the country.

Also, aid projects for market guidance and the organization of a national youth seminar as part of the celebration of the International Youth Year (AIJ), scheduled to take place in 1985, are under review.

Agreements With Italy, U.S.

AB241703 Paris AFP in French 1226 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 23 Dec (AFP) — Lengema Dulia, Zaire's secretary of state for international cooperation, on Saturday signed a financial agreement with Emedes Vittorio, Italian ambassador to Zaire. Under the agreement the Italian Government will make available to the Zairian Government 5 billion lira for financing an agricultural project at Luala in the Bas-Zaire Region and at Feshi in the Bandundu Region (two regions located in the southeast and in the northeast respectively).

On the same day, Mr Lengema signed another agreement with U.S. Ambassador Brandon Grove on the Food For Peace Program, which will enable Zaire to purchase agricultural products (wheat, wheat flour, corn, and cotton) worth $15 million in the United States.

Refugees Reluctant To Return From Zambia

AB241749 Paris AFP in English 1736 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Lusaka, Dec 24 (AFP) — About 800 out of more than 1,200 Zairean refugees who crossed the border into Zambia's Luapula Province 3 weeks ago have refused to go back to Zaire because they are afraid of attacks by Zairean soldiers.

A senior official at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Lusaka said today that the refugees, who had been lodged at schools in the province, were now constructing shelters into which they will move when school reopens in January.

"We had a little more than 1,200 refugees in the area and only about 400 have since gone home," he said. "The rest are still there and they are receiving all the necessary medical and food aid. We believe they faced some dangers because, otherwise, they would not have fled from home," he added.

The UNHCR official said his organization is administering aid through the Catholic Secretariat and the council. He said about $12,000 dollars had been allocated for relief to the refugees.

The refugees crossed the Zambian border from southeastern Zaire because of what they said were attacks on them by Zairean troops involved in anti-rebel operations.

GHANA

Radio Criticizes Role of Western Media

AB251955 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Dec 84

[David Anaglate commentary]

[Text] One phenomenon which has been an obstacle to the realization of full independence of Third World countries has been the continued one-way flow of information to these countries from the northern half, especially the Western part of the world. Because of their wealth and advanced technology, the Western media continue to be the first to reach Third World countries with information concerning events within the Third World countries themselves; and most of the time, the events highlighted are the negative ones, touching on famine, coups d'etat and other disasters. Worst of all, these foreign media interpret the developments in our countries to us and in this way continue to (?lead) our opinions of what is good or is not good for us.

The example of the recent Western media reporting of the Franco-African summit held in Burundi is relevant. The Western media sought to project French President Mitterrand as having come under intense African criticism for pulling French troops out of Chad ahead of Libyan troops. So intense was the psychological pressure put on the French president by this kind of reporting that poor Mitterrand had to bend over backwards to assure the nation that French troops could move back into Chad within a matter of hours if the need arose. The media did not specify which particular African leader was against the French pull-out, nor were we told whether the ordinary masses in the ex-French colonies were asked for their views on the French withdrawal, for if this poll had taken place, it would have been discovered that the preponderance of opinion among ordinary Africans is in favor of France pulling out its troops not only from Chad, but also from the CAR, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, and all the ex-colonies where she maintains her neocolonial presence 24 years after granting them nominal independence.

The ordinary African should have told the Western media that while they object to any Libyan attempt to annex any part of Chad, they would still prefer such a problem to be resolved within the African family and this should not justify intervention by any non-African power, least of all by a former colonial power as that.

The Western media should be told that they should not substitute the opinions of a handful of corrupt African dictators for the views of the masses of the continent. But this is exactly what is happening and the tragedy of the situation is that ordinary Africans, after being bombarded with these Eurocentric views, are in danger of finally accepting these as the truth. Thus the demand through UNESCO for a new international information order coming as it does from the Third World, shows that these countries want to arrest this cultural domination.

The U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO, the British threat to withdraw by the end of next year, and the rumbling and fallouts to a similar effect show but one thing: The West is not prepared to allow its money and facilities to be used to weaken the cultural advantage they now have over the rest of the world through their advanced information technology.

All the talk about UNESCO being anti-West, or UNESCO being used to undermine so called free-world institutions amounts to saying that Western money cannot be used for UNESCO's attempt to change the present unbalanced information flow. Indeed, the West is right in the short term, if not in the long run, for after all (?thought is free), so are the airwaves. The West is merely using its freedom to project its value. If we do not like it, it is for us to devise the means to reach our peoples first with the desired information and views before the Western media do. After all, we are independent nations now. And didn't Nkrumah say: "Seek ye first the political kingdom, and everything else shall be added unto it?" That is why one must endorse the view of a former secretary of information as expressed at a recent function in Accra that the whole challenge about the information flow lies with the Third World journalists developing the right technology to beat the advanced media at their own game. Except that the challenge should not be put at the door of journalists alone. If anything, Third World governments must relax their excessive control of the press.

It is for our engineers in the Third World to pool these research resources to develop the relevant communications technology. If this helps us to avoid the expense of running after the ever-advancing technology of the developed countries while achieving the main aim of helping Third World journalists reach Third World peoples faster than the Western media, their task would have been done.

LIBERIA

Doe Christmas Message Warns Journalists

AB241535 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1415 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Liberian head of state Samuel Doe's 1984 Christman message to the nation delivered at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia on 24 December — recorded]

[Excerpts] It is with deep sense of gratitude that we offer thanks and praises to God for all the merciful blessings he has bestowed upon us as a nation and as peoples during this present Yuletide. Through His loving kindness we have overcome many ups and downs. Today, in commemoration of the birth of Christ and the ushering in of the new year, my entire family joins me in happily greeting all Liberians at home and abroad and our friends and partners in progress residing in our borders.

Through this year, we have tried to live up to our pledge made in 1980 to transform Liberia into a true democratic state where all our citizens will have the opportunity to contribute politically, socially and economically for the development of the nation. Thus we have spared no effort in promoting genuine peace, political stability, freedom and the establishment of democratic rule. Accordingly, the new constitution was adopted earlier this year through a national referendum. Subsequently, we lifted the ban on political activities and today political parties are being formed.

The People's Redemption Council was dissolved and replaced by the Interim National Assembly to guide the country toward civilian rule.

Fellow citizens, ladies and gentlemen, we take pride in the fact that our revolution has opened doors for the exercise of freedom and the realization of the hopes and aspirations for all Liberians today. For the first time in our history, Liberians will be free to join a political party of their choice and to elect people of their choice. Thus, as we go through the democratic process, we expect that politicians, critics and newspaper publishers will all realize that our primary objective at this time is to preserve the state and maintain peace in the nation. We should all strive for truth, (?agility) and professionalism. We should strive to build up society not destroy it, unite our people and not divide them.

While this occasion is one of joy and happiness, I should not miss this opportunity to warn newspapers against creating situations which could disrupt public peace and national security. We hope that in the new year, publishers of independent newspapers will be guided by the experience of the last year so as to prevent the closure of their papers. As commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia and head of state, it is my duty on this occasion to assure the Liberian people, investors, businessmen and all those residing in our country that my government will protect lives and property at all times. We trust that you will not be disturbed by threats or intimidation from politicians who may want to cause confusion and disruption in society.

Fellow citizens, as we go through this new experiment in our country, let us learn to love and not to hate one another. Let peace and security characterize our activities and let peace and harmony be our guiding principles in all of our actions. We believe that together we can build a lasting institution of social and political justice in Liberia and make this country truly a [word indistinct] land of liberty by God's command.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all!

Doe Appoints Assistant Minister of State

AB242146 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The Liberian leader, Commander in Chief [CIC] Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has appointed Johnny Kpor assistant minister of state for special services at the Executive Mansion with immediate effect. In a letter to Mr Kpor, Dr Doe said: I trust you will exemplify the same cooperative spirit you demonstrated when you served in your previous position. Mr Kpor previously served as special assistant to the minister of state for presidential affairs.

Meanwhile, Mr Joseph (Kanah) has been appointed special assistant to the minister of state for presidential affairs by the head of state, CIC Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe. In a letter to Mr (Kanah), the head of state said: It is my expectation that you will take this new assignment with great challenge, work tirelessly and dedicatedly to justify the confidence reposed in you.

Visiting Nigerian Oil Minister Decorated

AB242028 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The visiting Nigerian minister for petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West, has been admitted into the (?Humane) Order of the Star of Africa with the rank of Grand (?Band). The ceremony was performed yesterday by Foreign Minister T. Ernest Eastman on behalf of the head of state, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, at a reception at the Hotel African complex in Virginia outside Monrovia. According to a Foreign Ministry citation, Prof David-West was honored for his dedication and commitment to the economic well-being of Nigeria and his continued service to Africa.

Speaking at the reception, Mr Eastman welcomed the Nigerian minister to Liberia and described him as one of those renowned Africans. He spoke highly of the [word indistinct] and understanding that exists between Liberia and Nigeria and hoped the relationship between the two countries would continue to attain acceptable heights.

For his part Professor David-West thanked the head of state for the honor bestowed upon him and expressed delight at the warm and cordial reception accorded him since his arrival in the country. Prof West arrived here yesterday at the start of a 3-day visit.

NIGERIA

Head of State Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

AB242211 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The head of state today received a special message from his Libyan counterpart, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. A Radio Nigeria State House correspondent reports that the message, which was delivered at Dodan Barracks by a former Libyan oil minister, Mr Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur, is in connection with current situation in the world oil market.

Oil Minister Rejects OPEC Price Proposal

AB241200 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Petroleum and Energy Minister Prof Tam David- West says a proposal to increase the price of heavy crude oil by 50 cents per barrel and lower the price of light crude oil by 25 cents per barrel is not acceptable to Nigeria. He stated this while briefing newsmen on the outcome of the first session of the OPEC ministers meeting in Geneva.

The minister noted that Nigeria had evolved the system that could respond instantly to uncertainties in the world oil market. He said the system became necessary to prevent fluctuations in the oil market from having a sudden effect on the nation's economy. Professor David-West did not elaborate on the new system.

Idiagbon on Military Participation in Government

AB241609 Lagos NAN in English 1452 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 24 (NAN) — The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, said yesterday in Kaduna that the Federal Government would not sacrifice the careers of young military officers by giving them political positions.

Answering a question on why soldiers were not involved in local government administration, Maj Gen Idiagbon told a meeting of officers of the mechanized division, Nigerian Army, that competent retired officers would, however, be considered for appointments at the local government level, adding that the state governments could effectively supervise local government activities.

Maj Gen Idiagbon said that cuts in fringe benefits and allowances had become inevitable in order to revive the economy. "It is better to cut allowances and make the government survive than to become pawns in the hands of IMF and other foreign interests who are bent on controlling us economically from outside," he added. He said that there would be a joint training program for the Armed Forces next year to improve inter-service relationships and minimize frictions.

Maj Gen Idiagbon expressed satisfaction with the state of preparedness of the army and the good relations between the Armed Forces and the police. He urged army officers to be the vanguard of WAI [War Against Indiscipline] as their actions would reflect on the administration.

Country To Improve Relations With Oil Customers

AB250945 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The Federal Government has expressed its determination to improve trade relations with countries that purchase crude oil from Nigeria. The head of state, Major General Muhammad Buhari, made this known in Lagos yesterday when the outgoing Belgian ambassador to Nigeria, Mr H.J. Matsaert, called on him. Gen Buhari made it clear that Nigeria would patronize goods from such countries to maintain a healthier trade balance.

Nigeria, he said, had great potentials and the temporary economic setback had reawakened the need to explore her various resources. He commended the ambassador for his efforts in improving the cordial relations in various fields between the two countries.

Earlier, the ambassador had briefed the head of state on Belgian projects in the country and expressed the hope that his country will improve her trade relations with Nigeria. The ambassador was in Nigeria for 3 years.

DAILY TIMES on U.S. Withdrawal From UNESCO

AB241150 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *DAILY TIMES* assesses the position of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, after the United States of America has opted out of the organization. The paper is of the opinion that the U.S. withdrawal will not cripple UNESCO financially. The *TIMES* explains that the American government took the action because it could no longer manipulate the world body.

SENEGAL

Diouf Receives Mauritanian Envoy 24 Dec

AB241400 Dakar Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] President Abdou Diouf this morning received Gabriel Cimper, the Mauritanian minister of water supply [as heard] and special envoy of his government. This visit falls within the framework of information missions sent to neighboring countries by the new Mauritanian leaders to explain the reasons for recent changes in their country.

ANGOLA

Lara Signs Condolence Book for Ustinov

MB251030 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] In Luanda yesterday, Comrade Lucio Lara, the secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee for Organization, signed the book of condolences opened at the Soviet Embassy on the death of Dmitriy Ustinov, the Soviet Defense minister. On the occasion, Lucio Lara hailed the qualities of a tireless militant and the contribution that Dmitriy Ustinov made to the strengthening of the defense capacity of the USSR and the socialist camp.

The secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee for Organization noted the attention that the late Soviet defense minister always gave to the strategic problems of southern Africa, particularly with regard to the strengthening and organization of the Angolan Armed Forces.

Also signing the book of condolences were the secretary of the Central Committee for External Relations, and the deputy minister of external affairs, as well as the ambassadors of Vietnam, Bulgaria, Egypt, and the Polish charges d'affaires.

Luanda Reports New RSA Anti-Angolan Radio

MB260721 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] The so-called Voice of Truth of South Africa has been constantly broadcasting coded messages containing instructions for the carrying out of acts of sabotage inside the Angolan territory by criminal groups. ANGOP revealed this yesterday while announcing the establishment of another anti-Angolan station in South African territory.

Citing TASS, ANGOP pointed out that the broadcasts of this new radio, located in the Transvaal, centered on Angolan-Cuban cooperation and transmitted reactionary viewpoints considered to be anti-Cuban and anti-Angolan. The programs are transmitted in Spanish and addressed to Cuban internationalists working in the People's Republic of Angola. According to a South African newspaper *SUNDAY TIMES*, the South African Government spends over 16 million rand every year for pyschological warfare through the radio by transmitting programs to independent countries in southern Africa.

ANGOP Comments on Dos Santos' Interview

MB240950 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 22 Dec 84

[ANGOP commentary: "Pretoria Versus Peace"]

[Text] In a forthright manner, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos once again blamed the South African rulers for the climate of violence that is being experienced in southern Africa. In an interview with the Polish newspaper *TRYBUNA LUDU*, the Angolan head of state, in characteristically direct and precise language, has blamed the Pretoria regime for the explosive situation that exists in the subcontinent. He also reaffirmed the desire for peace expressed continuously by the Angolan rulers.

Angola has been tireless in the search for solutions that could bring peace to southern Africa. The document that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos recently sent to Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, containing guidelines for easing the tense deadlock has not surprised those who have attentively followed the peace efforts of the Angolan rulers. Pretoria, unfortunately, reacted with counter-proposals that will not lead to a satisfactory accord for peace in Southern Africa. The South African rulers, in down-to-earth language, took a stance that prevents the continuation of a serious and constructive dialogue, a dialogue that could open the way for a negotiated solution to problems in this part of the continent.

South Africa presented counter-proposals that are completely unacceptable to Angola, because it has introduced in them an arrogant, intolerant, and plutocratic attitude that shares the bases for a dialogue between nations.

The Pretoria position is a hard blow for the norms regulating dialogue between sovereign states, which have been established since the end of the World War II. The refusal of the South African rulers to search for an adequate negotiated solution, and one which will preserve the Angolan national interests, is primarily a denial of the stability and security in southern Africa and the harmony of its own state, which cannot overcome isolation and tension while apartheid — which is all that the present regime can offer — is maintained.

Serious negotiations with Angola will not only benefit Angola but will also bring security for southern Africa itself. Yet the current Pretoria attitude implies that South Africa is closing its doors in a dangerous denial of reality, which subjects her to international public opinion. This denies her reasoning as well as her diplomatic and political triumphs.

The reaction of the international community to the peace platform presented by Angola clearly shows that most countries approve of her attitude, and this means that there is a broad consensus to condemn the South African gesture, which is obviously contrary to international regulations. Whether Pretoria's indifference is real or not, the approval of the Angolan standpoints signifies an ethical and political victory with considerable consequences for South Africa.

The majority of the international community understood that the arrogance and the dangerous direction that Pretoria gives to its attitudes are serious setbacks for peace in southern Africa.

Today, it is quite clear that the Angola standpoint is invariably directed toward peace. The United States, as brokers in the talks, obtained from the Angolan side a broad readiness that they expected and even a flexibility that has astounded certain circles. Today, even the Americans confirm that it is the Pretoria rulers who are unilaterally blocking the way for peace. Evidently, the White House has the means of pressuring and virtually forcing the South Africans to take actions that are beyond their own

wishes. This is true however, only in theory, while in practice the high economic interests show that Washington has not done a thing to make the full weight of its influence prevail.

UNITA Official Comments on Reported Infighting

MB241836 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 24 Dec 84

[From the "Focus on Africa" Program]

[Text] If the Angolan Government is to be believed, UNITA guerrillas have recently suffered a number of setbacks. The government claims that in a major battle in the city of Huambo, 50 UNITA guerrillas were killed and 60 captured. They also say that large numbers of UNITA guerrillas are surrendering to government forces. In addition, there are claims that UNITA is currently split by tribal divisions. On the line to New York, Robin White asks (Jeremiah Chitunda), UNITA's secretary for foreign affairs, about the claims of splits within UNITA:

[Begin recording] [Chitunda] Well, that is hogwash, Mr White. UNITA enjoys the highest degree of cohesion, thanks to the kind of leadership that we have. There is no internal problem whatsoever in UNITA.

[White] The report says that the fighting is between the Ovimbundo, which is the main tribe in the south, and two smaller groups, the Chokwe and the Kwanyama.

[Chitunda] And again, that is total false. UNITA cannot afford under any circumstances to have this type of internal problem, internal fighting. UNITA is an organization that today incorporates all ethnic groups in the country from the south all the way up to the northernmost part of Angola. And there is a reality: the Kwanyama, the Chokwe, the Luena, the Kibundo, the Ovimbundo, the Bakongo, all of them are participating very harmoniously in this resistance led by UNITA.

[White] But, wouldn't it be fair to say that the Ovimbundo have been the dominant movement within UNITA?

[Chitunda] That is only because the Ovimbundo make up more than 40 percent of the Angolan population, so they are a factor, one way or the other, but to call it the dominant group of UNITA simply underestimates the participation of all other ethnic groups in the country.

[White] Now, the Angolan Government is also claiming this weekend to have killed 50 of your guerrillas in Huambo. Now is that right?

[Chitunda] The people, the residents of the city of Huambo, for the first time on 20 December this year demonstrated peacefully, and those were thousands and thousands of civilian populations — up to 15,000 — when suddenly the Cubans, facing a panic, picked up their guns and they drove them up and down in the streets firing indiscriminately at these population concentrations. UNITA had to take up (?battle) positions. In response to this, there was fighting throughout the whole day of 20 December, and that is a very tragic situation.

[White] But were 50 of your guerrillas killed?

[Chitunda] No, they were 12 casualties we had in the city of Huambo.

[White] And you claim how many civilians were killed?

[Chitunda] Oh, hundreds of civilians were killed. It is very difficult to tally it. They were also in the exchange of fire 112 MPLA soldiers that were killed.

[White] Is this the first time there has been large-scale fighting in Huambo?

[Chitunda] No, there have been various skirmishes but this is the very first time that wanton, indiscriminate shooting of civilian population was perpetrated on such a large-scale by the MPLA Government, by the MPLA troops. [end recording]

KUP Cites Heavy Losses From UNITA Attacks

MB241052 (Clandestine) KUP in English to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 24 Dec 84

["Huambo City was attacked by UNITA's Forces; Facts and Realities" — KUP headline]

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 24 Dec (KUP) — These last days we are assisting in Angola great attacks never seen before, carried out by UNITA against Russian-Cuban occupation forces and the MPLA's troops. Several economical and strategical installations in Huambo City, capital of the province, were strongly attacked by UNITA. The well known CUCA industrial and economical complex beer factory was not left aside by Angolan people's fierceness.

On December 20, the UNITA's armed force inflicted heavy losses to Cubans and MPLA forces which were defending the CUCA factory. The populations of Huambo had shown solidarity with UNITA action, by public demonstrations to UNITA's president, Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi. Huambo is living moments of effervescence.

The cruel Luanda regime got panicked and had decided to make arbitrary arrests and to kill population elements, to steal their belongings, and to rape young girls and women. These acts, which characterize the MPLA regime, were already publicly condemned by International Amnesty organization [as received] (?in its) report published in Stockholm, Sweden.

LESOTHO

Prime Minister Comments on Coming Elections

MB251753 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, the right honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, says he will, before the end of this month, advise his majesty the king to dissolve parliament, after which a constituency

delimitation commission shall be set up to be followed by the announcement of an election date.

The prime minister said this in his Christmas and New Year's message broadcast over Radio Lesotho. Dr Jonathan said that under the Human Rights Act of 1968, all individuals and political parties will be free to run for the election and to express their viewpoints and opinions in the campaign leading to elections.

He also indicated, however, that this act must not be seen as a blank check at the disposal of everyone to do as he or she pleases and to disregard with impunity all other laws and rights of other persons individually or collectively. The prime minister said that while the law guarantees the freedom of assembly those wishing to assemble together for purposes of campaigns, they should also remember to seek the requisite permission from the relevant authorities under the internal security legislation.

He said it was expected that relevant authorities should not unnecessarily withhold permission for such assemblies as long as applicants satisfy the requirements of the law.

Dr Jonathan said that authorities should not concern themselves with extraneous considerations, such as party affiliations or viewpoints of the applicants, or the economic, social, and religious background or influences. He said that preparations for elections and the (?polls) of election itself should be absolutely free but within the dictates of the law.

The prime minister said that all parties and individuals must exercise moderation and restraint where differences of opinion or viewpoints are expressed.

Above all, Dr Jonathan said, no acts of intimidation, including covert or overt attempts to force people to attend assemblies of a particular political party or support it or disrupt its proceedings, will be tolerated. He said that to achieve all this it would come as no surprise to anybody to find the presence of law enforcement agents in assemblies where their interest would be the maintenance of law and order. Dr Jonathan said that in due course the timing of the elections will be announced and said he trusted that all will do their best to heed the advice given in this message.

Referring to public servants, he said that since they will be starting the new year with improved salaries, even though they may not be up to everybody's expectations, as we are paid from the public (?pool), to recognize that the salary increases are an investment by the nation [sentence as heard] In particular, he asked public servants to be loyal to the nation, to work with honesty and dedication and to work more for the success of the public and its offspring. Furthermore, Dr Jonathan advises public servants to refrain from embezzling public funds and accepting bribes, all of which interfere with the peace of the nation. He added that public servants will have to ensure that they conduct the coming elections in a manner that will guarantee peace.

Dr Jonathan said that good relations with our neighbors, including South Africa, can only be possible in an atmosphere of reciprocation through respect for the principles of equality with admission of each other's sovereignty and independence and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

In conclusion, the prime minister expressed gratitude to the whole nation for the support extended not only to him personally but also for the loyalty and patriotism to the country, which is a legacy left to us by our forebearers.

MOZAMBIQUE

'Bandits' Responsible For Foreigners' Deaths Killed

MB241607 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces recently killed nine armed bandits following an attack on a bandit camp in (Nduzi), [word indistinct] district, Niassa Province. The action resulted in the total destruction of the camp and the freeing of a number of civilians who had been forced to live with the bandits. (Valentim Kizane), the commander of the force that mounted the operation, revealed a few days ago that the Mozambique Armed Forces had also captured a quantity of military equipment, including 3 weapons, 10 cartridges and ammunition, and 3 offensive grenades. In the same operation, the Armed Forces recovered goods that had been stolen from the people.

According to the same source, the success of the operation was due to active collaboration between the population and our Armed Forces. Military sources in Lichinga are cited as having said a few days ago that this gang was the same that murdered eight foreign aid workers and five Mozambican workers on the morning of 6 December.

'Bandit' Camps Destroyed

MB241935 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Five camps of the armed bandits were destroyed in Chibabava in Sofala Province from July to September this year. In the attacks many gangsters were gunned down and three others taken prisoner and various war equipment seized. A military commander of the battalion stationed in Chibabava said that the movement of armed bandits in the area is being increasingly reduced with our Armed Forces escalating their general offensive.

As a consequence of the military pressure on the bandits, many members of the public who had been kidnapped by them are now able to flee from captivity and present themselves to the FPLM. Our Armed Forces recently freed 233 persons from the armed bandits, including children, youths and elderly persons. This took place in (Subue) and Nhaungo in Maringue district in Sofala Province. These persons, who had been kidnapped between 1 and 30 November, are now building their own farms and houses and engaging in other tasks relating to their return to normal life.

A major camp of the armed bandits was destroyed on 16 December in Nicuadala village in Zambezia by the Mozambique Armed Forces. In the operation, 27 bandits were killed and 200 members of the public, who were being forced to live with the criminals, were freed. They included women, children, and elderly persons.

(Francisco Olivo), military commander for Quelimane district, who directed the military operation for the destruction of the camp, said that all the young girls who were in the camp had been raped by the armed bandits. The same source also disclosed that a program to support the freed persons was immediately implemented and that clothes and food had already been sent to them.

Meanwhile, officials in Nicuadala village will distribute to the recently freed persons plots of land for the construction of houses and will also increase the amount of farm land for the persons in question.

SOUTH AFRICA

President Botha Makes Christmas Address to Nation

MB251130 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1745 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Christmas address by State President P.W. Botha to the nation in English and Afrikaans; date and place not given — recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [English] 1984 will be recorded as the year of meaningful constitutional development. The commencement of the new constitution represents a further step in our endeavor to create just constitutional arrangements for all peoples and communities in South Africa. The government is also committed to advance, in consultation with black communities and their leaders, their continued constitutional development. This is essential to achieve cooperative coexistence. Social stability and progress are prerequisites for internal peace and security, and will therefore remain priorities in our planning for the future.

Where unrest and discontent is the result of deliberate attempts to create disorder for the sake of radical political gain, the government is determined to maintain law and order in a just and effective way. In the latter part of the year, we have seen such deliberate attempts to disturb the peace and quiet. Due to the diligence of our security services, and the responsibility of our communities, order has been restored. I, therefore, wish to express my sincere appreciation and that of the government, to all our security services, in particular the members of the South African police and Defense Force, for their devoted service and loyalty to our country and all its peoples. They have ensured that the republic was at all times protected from internal and external attacks on our security.

Tonight, I also wish to extend my deepest sympathy to all who have lost beloved ones in the process of safeguarding our country. May our heavenly Father comfort and console you.

[Afrikaans] We live in a world in which continued conflict and violence rule supreme at times. South Africa has to reckon with a world community that hides so many of its problems and shortcomings behind a well-planned campaign against this country and its people. There are forces that are intent on ensuring that we do not succeed in our policy of acknowledging the rights of minorities and the achievement of good neighborliness between communities.

Our task of bringing about good neighborliness for all in our country and in southern Africa has, for decades, been hampered by the Soviet-inspired hate campaign against the republic. This finds expression, in particular, in the actions of Soviet clients and fellow travellers who wish to promote the Marxist message under various cloaks in order to achieve anarchy and chaos through revolutionary means.

The government will use every means at its disposal to resist interference in our domestic affairs by outside forces, and will persist in its chosen path of achieving prosperity and growth for all the people of South Africa, and ensure that norms and standards are maintained.

May the festive season bring happiness and peace to you all, and may the new year, 1985, be one of prosperity and grace for you and your families. There are so many positive aspects on which we can build that we can enter unto the new year with joy and thanks in our hearts, and with the knowledge that a task, a challenge, and new horizons lie ahead.

MP Discusses Dismantling Apartheid

MB231145 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 23 Dec 84 p 12

[Article "Why Play It Again, Sampie?" by Colin Eglin, member of the House of Assembly and Progressive Federal Party foreign affairs spokesman]

[Text] Professor Sampie Terblanche in the *SUNDAY TIMES* of December 16 1984 calls on the Government to make a firm declaration of Intent. He "believes it is time we made a promise to the world to end apartheid." A commendable concept. But in the professor's appeal is a strong element of irony — and of tragedy for South Africa. A glance through past pages of the *SUNDAY TIMES* will show that 10 years ago almost to the day the Nationalist Government made the very promise to the world that Professor Terreblance wants it to make today.

It was in November 1974 that Mr Pik Botha, then 10 years younger than he is today, captured the attention of the world leaders and raised the expectations of millions of people both inside and outside South Africa when, before representatives of the international community gathered at the United Nations Security Council, he used these stirring words and gave this solemn undertaking on behalf of the Government.

We do have discriminatory practices and we do have discriminatory laws. But I want to state here today very clearly and categorically: my Government does not condone discrimination purely on the grounds of race or colour. Discrimination based solely on the colour of a man's skin cannot be defended. "We shall do everything in our power to move away from discrimination based on race or colour."

What has happened to this solemn undertaking over the past 10 years? Why is it that Professor Terreblanche finds it necessary to call on his Government today to give the same undertaking that it gave 10 years ago? Of course there have been changes away from apartheid and discrimination over the past 10 years.

Some of these changes have taken place in spite of the Government and its restrictive policies. Others have occurred as the Government has responded slowly and at times reluctantly to the pressure of the evolutionary forces welling up inside the South African society.

Social forces flowing from the inexorable process of urbanisation, economic forces generated by an expanding industrially- based economy, moral forces, educational forces. The psychological impact of people of various races and colours and working and co-operating together at a thousand and one points in the infrastructure of the society of that country.

Yes, there have been changes away from apartheid such as in the fields of sport, and commerce, and industry, and labour relations, and trade unions, and in cultural and welfare and community organisations. Advances have been made in the field of property rights, and job opportunities and education facilities. Some of these changes have been peripheral, others have been significant. Others have been important because of the doors they have opened and for the processes they could set in motion. But when we have listed all these changes and we then sit back and take a long hard look at the record of Mr Botha's Nationalist Government can we honestly say that over the past 10 years our South African Government has done everything in its power to move away from discrimination based on race or color? The reality is that in spite of the changes that have taken place, the essential structure of apartheid still remains.

The fact is that apartheid — call it by another name if you must — eroded in places, looking tattered and shop-soiled in others, remains a cornerstone of the Nationalist Government's political philosophy. The elements of apartheid persist, not because Government has not had time to eliminate them, but because they are the cornerstones on which Government policy is based.

Apartheid in the form of Group Areas Act and the Urban Areas Act are not there simply as legacies from the past. They are there to give effect to the National Party's declared policy of residential segregation. Apartheid in the form of enforced removals does not take place simply because of the whim of some Government official. It takes place because the removal of so-called "black spots" and the consolidation of parts of South Africa into ethnically-based homelands is an integral part of National Party policy.

Apartheid in the form of separate legislative chambers and separate departments of local government and housing and health and welfare and education are not here as accidents of history. They were written into the constitution and entrenched in the constitution by the Nationalist Government only a year ago. The apartheid which excludes black South Africans from any say in the central government of their country is not the result of an oversight on the part of the Government. Black exclusion from participation in central government of South Africa is as important a part of present-day Nationalist policy as it was 25 years ago in the days of Dr Verwoerd.

As Professor Terreblanche points out, "the road towards the total dismantling of apartheid is going to be a long and difficult one". Yes, this is so when one realises that the alternative to apartheid is not refined apartheid, or streamlined apartheid, or "humane" apartheid.

The alternative to apartheid is no apartheid. I agree that it is not going to be easy. It will require a change of attitude as well as change in legislation. But if South Africa is going to become the truly great country which I believe it can become then we must start in earnest, not merely eliminating the trappings of apartheid but dismantling the structure of apartheid in our country.

I believe that if Mr Botha's Government made a firm commitment it would evoke a positive response that would lift South Africa to new and exciting heights of development and achievement. South Africa can do this — but not if we delay for another 10 years.

2 ANC Members Killed, 4 Captured With Weapons

MB250825 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0747 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 25, SAPA — Police have shot dead two trained ANC members, arrested four others and seized large quantities of Eastern bloc arms and ammunition in the Ingwavuma district northern Natal since December 6. Six "terrorist hangers-on" were also arrested during the operation, which is continuing, the acting commissioner of police, Lieutenant-General H.G. de Witt, said in a statement issued in Pretoria today.

The equipment seized in the operation included land mines, rocket launchers, anti-tank grenades, limpet mines, anti-personnel mines, and 5,000 rounds of ammunition.

General de Witt said police, acting on information gained as a result of "certain arrests" made by the security branch, approached a "certain place" in the Ingwavuma district on December 14.

"A black man with an AK-47 started shooting at them. Police returned the fire and the man was killed," the statement said. "It has since been established that the black man was a highly-trained ANC terrorist." A Captain Holloway of the SAP [South African Police] was wounded in the right arm and hand during the shoot-out.

At 5:30 am yesterday, an SAP unit under the command of Major-General Stanley Schutte and Brigadier Bert Wandrag, assisted by the Air Force, approached an alleged terrorist hideout in the Ingwavuma district, the statement said. "In the shootout that followed, another trained ANC terrorist was shot dead and two terrorist hangers-on arrested." The other ANC members and sympathisers were arrested during the course of the operation, Genl de Witt said.

Police seized 4 TM-7 land mines, 34 PMN anti-personnel mines, 17 RKG anti-tank grenades, 31 handgrenades, seven RPG-7 rocket launchers, one limpet mine, one PKM machinegun, 15 AK-47 rifles, 1 C Peterson carbine, 3 Luger pistols, 5,000 rounds

of ammunition of various calibres, and 2 electronic time switches. "The police investigation is continuing," the statement said.

Commentary Cites Country's Role as Regional Power

MB211656 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Station commentary: "South Africa's Regional Role in Southern Africa"]

[Text] 1984 is ending for southern Africa as it began — preoccupied with regional relations and, especially, the South African situation in the subcontinent. (?But) the context of that debate has changed dramatically. Indeed, the Nkomati Accord itself was a symbol of a much larger development. Commentators today describe South Africa as a regional power, that is, in southern Africa its relationship with the countries around it is analogous to that of the superpowers in the international context. It is a position that implies certain rights, responsibilities, powers, and interests.

South Africa is the economic giant of the region. With a third of its population, the country has three-quarters of its gross regional product, 90 percent of its energy consumption, and the lion's share of the other countries' trade, transport, communications, and other activities involving the outside world. With that kind of stake, South Africa has an absorbing interest in maintaining stability in southern Africa. The other side of the coin are its intersts in the development of its neighbors. According to [word indistinct], (?its) economic progress is one of the most potent forces for stability (?of a country) and peaceful coexistence with its neighbors.

The regional strategic interests stem from that situation, coupled with the deep-rooted antipathy to the dehumanizing doctrine of communism. It accepts as an obligation, not only to itself but to its moderate neighbors, the need to counter a radical shift of power — as a result of intervention by force — of expansionist, influence-seeking outsiders. In particular, it has a commitment to containing and, in cooperation with African and Western moderates, reversing the encroachment of the Soviet Union and its proxies in the region.

Within that context, South Africa has this year asserted (?its) certain rights with respect to the neighbors themselves. It demands that they refrain from taking any action that might jeopardize its security, and it maintains its right to take appropriate (?protective) measures. It upholds not only its right, but its duty, to enable territory under its protection — specifically South-West Africa — to develop peacefully and democratically to a constitutional dispensation of (?their) own choosing, free of [word indistinct] intimidation.

Such demands are made by countries of their neighbors everywhere. They are all the more compelling in southern Africa, with its interlocking economic (?needs), the target of an [word indistinct] power that grabs at ever opportunity to destabilize and subvert. What has become clear above all else in regional relations in southern Africa this year, is that South Africa will protect its interests, and exercise its rights, as a regional superpower.

Editorial Discusses P.W. Botha's Comments on U.S. TV

MB230826 Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 19 Dec 84 p 14

[Editorial: "Our Side"]

[Text] One particular aspect of the state president's interesting interview televised in America at the weekend needs special attention. South Africa does have a "different message" for the outside world; the problem is getting that message heard. In this case a television authority mercifully attempted to approach this country's problems impartially. In addition, the interviewer presented the program in a balanced manner. Indeed, the interview itself, and the complementary visual material, gave the overall impression that the program really wanted to present the "other side" to the American viewers.

The reaction here at home, but especially in America, indicates that the presentation was highly effective. For South Africans of all races, President Botha's stand on sensitive issues was nothing new, merely a reaffirmation that orderly reform and change must be rooted in the age old principle of justice for all the country's citizens.

Mr Botha tried to explain to the Americans the uniqueness of our complicated problem of a multiplicity of races and ethnic groups. We are a United Nations in miniature, he said, for whom a political system has to be found which will protect the interest of every group. And before the world condemns us, it should first judge us according to the models and examples of the many failures in Africa.

These are all facts and truths that must be accepted. And it is necessary that an audience, which has up to now been uninformed, take note. Which raises the question of whether we should not make funds available to buy time on independent television networks. There is ample, and varied, material available which can tell, and give enlightenment about, "the other side" of South Africa.

Not that this would immediately open doors for us, but we cannot simply sit back and allow the radical groups overseas to take over the field with their half-truths and misrepresentations, not to mention the bloodbath visions of Tutu. It is ironic that South Africa was given the chance to present "our side" of the matter, just when there are signs that the anti-South African feeling in America seems to be running at its highest, what with the Tutu affair.

As Dr Brand Fourie, the South African ambassador to the United States, said, this has been the one positive result of Tutu's visit to America and the demonstrations now taking place there against the republic.

Afrikaner Reform Plan Discussed in Paper

MB231255 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 23 Dec p 12

[Article "Wrong, Professor, It Does Work" by Anton a van Niekerk, Stellenbosch University senior lecturer in philosphy]

[Text] One of the biggest ironies of the intermittent debate about the function of Afrikaner intellectuals is the questioning of the verligtes' reformist integrity and credibility. While one would normally expect resistance from the right to Afrikaner reformist moves, verligte pleas for reform are, in fact, disparaged by other Afrikaner intellectuals who are farther left on the political spectrum.

One fears that what will suffer in the end is not so much the reputation of the verligtes — though that would indeed be a welcome bonus for their critics — but the process of reform itself. The reason is obvious: if the verligte drive for reform within the National Party does not succeed, the victor will most certainly not be an "oorbeligte" type of reform strategy, but Dr Treurnicht and his reactionary ideology.

The consequences for the process of peaceful and evolutionary reform are obvious and desired only by people who have given up hope for a peaceful settlement in South Africa.

Are the critics of verligtheid incapable of understanding this simple fact? Can one not expect a little more sensitivity to the hard realities of white politics than that revealed by Professor Johan Degenaar ("My heart is where the hurt is ... in the real world we cannot ignore", *SUNDAY TIMES*, December 16).

According to Professor Degenaar, the verligtes' "genuine striving towards democratisation within a power structure which is genuinely based on non-democratisation" is indicative of a "tragic dimension" in the current debate on verligtheid. However, some Afrikaner intellectuals' refusal to accept the reformist credentials of their verligte colleagues and to acknowledge their success will turn out to be the real tragedy in the history of reform in South Africa.

The verligtes and "oorbeligtes" (the now commonly accepted nickname for the Degenaar camp) are arguing about different means to reach the same end: a just, democratically based South African society void of racism and statutory discrimination.

Verligtes strive for this goal within the confines and discipline of a politically realistic and intellectually respectable strategy: that their political inputs are optimally effective if channelled through the ranks of the party which is in power at the moment and which, in white politics, is the only party with a sufficient power base effectively to generate real reform.

The oorbeligtes clearly disagree with this, though this disagreement is, as far as I understand them, the only thing that is clear about their strategy.

The nearest Professor Degenaar gets to a formulation of strategy is when he say: "He (a verligte) should rather join forces with those reform-minded people who are willing to transcend racial and party differences in working towards a democratic society based on genuine power-sharing and freedom of association" and later "(he should) join forces now with reform-minded people of all colors in the creation of a just dispensation".

From these vaguenesses, the only deduction is that Professor Degenaar does not have a high regard for available parliamentary procedures in bringing about change.

Since "party differences" should also be transcended, it appears that even a vote for the PFP does not seem a viable proposition. If not, then what? Is he calling for extra-parliamentary action? Is he pleading the case of the UDF or other similarly minded organisations? If so, does he honestly think that a "reform process" thus conceived can be stable and peaceful?

How does he conceive of "the creation of a just dispensation" in which the present Government apparently has no role to play? How does he evaluate the Buthelezi strategy, which is vehemently opposed to apartheid but which uses existing legalised means to press for change because to do otherwise is to opt for violence and ultimately disaster?

A complicating factor is that Professor Degenaar apparently refuses to accept that the difference between him and the verligtes is mainly a matter of strategy. According to him, the choice is not one between different strategies but between "democratisation and its consequences and NP policy and its consequences".

In maintaining a critical solidarity with the NP, verligtes are therefore not really able to strive for greater democratisation; they live with a tragic contradiction; their thinking is "schizophrenic"; they try to "reconcile the irreconcilable".

Moreover, their "highest principle" is, in fact, not reform but "to uphold Afrikaner power". Above all, verligtes are "dangerous, both for themselves individually and for society as a whole". They do not recognise the "discrepancy between fantasy and reality"; they have to live "both in the real world of injustice and in the make-believe world of good intentions".

These are harsh accusations which amply illustrate the real tragedy of this debate. Worse. They are instances of both oversimplification and distortion. it simply is not true that the Government's refusal to share power with blacks in some or other forum is not negotiable.

In his address at the opening of Parliament in September, President Botha explicity emphasised the urgency with which the Government regards the investigation by special Cabinet committee into the political future of urban blacks. If the permanence of blacks in urban areas is accepted, as the Government has repeatedly done, why investigate and negotiate about their political participation if power-sharing is not negotiable?

If the power structure of the Government is "genuinely based on nondemocratisation", what does Professor Degenaar call the events of August and September 1984? Does he suggest that the Hendrickses and the Currys are deliberately being taken for the most treacherous political ride of the century? How can the cause

of reform possibly be furthered if the credibility of these accepted leaders of the colored and Indian communities are constantly undermined by people who ridicule the new constitution?

But perhaps the most preposterous claim is the advice that verligtes should call it a day because of the discrepancy between "verligte rhetoric and the practice of ongoing injustice" in South Africa.

I am the first to agree that injustice and discrimatory practices call for urgent attention and preferably abolition. But to say "the eyes remain on the verligtes to help eradicate these injustices" surely states the case for verligtheid more convincingly than any verligte could have stated it himself?

The simple question remains: what would have happened in South Africa were it not for verligte pressures for reform from within the NP and from moderate and realistic black leaders? Would we have seen a Wiehahn report, the normalisation of sport, black trade unions, open hotels, restaurants, universities and a new constitution if it were not for the sustained effort by the verligtes over many years?

Professor Degenaar is looking in the right direction when he calls on verligtes to "help eradicate injustices". But why does he not join forces with the people who are trying their utmost to hasten the process of constructive change in this troubled country.

Verligtheid is a strategy that works. The sort of opposition it meets from oorbeligte quarters is probably an indication of a stubborn refusal born of frustration and irritation to give credit where it is due.

I appreciate that his heart is where the hurt is. But we need more than emotional responses if we really are interested in complete democratisation of this country. We should also listen to the claims of reason and sense besides those of the heart. The seriousness and potential explosiveness of our problems demand no less.

Zulu Editorial on Reagan's Condemnation of Apartheid

MB231046 Durban ILANGA in Zulu 17-19 Dec 84 p 10

[Editorial in English: "Reagan's Grief Over Apartheid"]

[Text] Undoubtedly all the people, both inside and outside South Africa, who are opposed to the detestable policy of aparthied and yearn for its total abolition will welcome President Ronald Reagan's speech last week in which he strongly condemned human rights abuses at a ceremony marking the 36th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In his most forthright speech, he said he felt "a moral responsibility to speak out... to emphasize our concern and grief over the human and spiritual costs of apartheid."

What President Reagan has said about South Africa's policies will definitely not endear him, in spite of his constructive engagement policy with this country, to the Nationalist Party government and its supporters. But the fact is that the government's apartheid policies have all the ingredients that dehumanise blacks and deny them their human rights.

As a leader of one of the most powerful nations in the world, which is a truly democratic country, President Reagan cannot afford to be seen to be associating himself with race repression in South Africa and his harsh criticism of any abominable practice of discrimination based on color is justified. The South African Government should be politically mature enough to accept constructive criticism from friendly countries, such as the United States, and start pulling down all the pillars of apartheid.

Editorial Criticizes View of Envoy to U.S.

MB231100 Durban ILANGA in Zulu 13-15 Dec 84 p8

[Editorial in Enlgish: "The Ambassador and the Bishop"]

[Text] If we've heard it once, we've heard it more than a thousand times before: one-man, one-vote is not the answer in South Africa. This time it comes from Mr Brand Fourie, South Africa's Ambassador in the U.S.A. He then goes on to add: "We have got to work out a different system."9 Mr Fourie, who was taking part in a nation-wide television interview, asked his prime-time audience what the argument was about with regard to change in South Africa. "We realize it ourselves. We are changing. We have changed a great deal", the ambassador is quoted as having said.

Well, for starters we would like to tell His Excellency that there is plenty to argue about when it comes to talking about change in this country. Like, for instance, the fact that few blacks will readily agree with the ambassador on his perception of change. For it is the kind of change designed to further benefit the apartheid system, which is the linchpin holding together the status quo. Relatively few blacks can honestly and sincerely claim to have benefitted from the much-vaunted changes as seen by Mr Fourie.

Secondly, as long as Mr Fourie's government insists on abrogating to itself the right unilaterally to determine the affairs and future of all South Africans, while the majority of the population has not meaningful say in the election or appointment of those who govern the country, so long will the truth continue to elude Mr Fourie and all who think like him. The truth, as Bishop Desmond Tutu has quite rightly pointed out, is that if the blacks here are not free, no one else can be free.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Thanks PRC at Farewell for Instructors

MB260555 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, yesterday thanked the PRC for the assistance it rendered to Zimbabwe during the liberation struggle. Comrade Mugabe was speaking at a farewell party he hosted in honor of 29 Chinese military instructors. The instructors have been assisting in the training of the Zimbabwe National Army for the past 20 months.

Comrade Mugabe said after attaining independence in 1980, it was important to transform the guerrilla cadres into a national army, and the Chinese instructors deserved praise for accomplishing their tasks. He added that the presence of the instructors further enhanced the good relations that exist between the two countries.

In reply to the prime minister's speech, the Chinese charge d'affaires to Zimbabwe, Comrade (Wei Zhiyang), said his country will continue to give assistance to Zimbabwe.

President Banana Emphasizes Need for Unity

MB250705 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, yesterday asked all Zimbabweans to reflect upon their actions as individuals, families, and as a nation in the chronicle of events of the passing year. In his Christmas message to the nation, broadcast on radio and television, Comrade Banana reminded the people that a divided and fragmented nation can only bring self-destruction. He added that a united people behind their [word indistinct] in government and leadership is a secure and reliable buffer against any form of internal and external destabilization.

Comrade Banana condemned heinous crimes perpetrated by ZAPU-backed dissidents against the civilian population. He pointed out that the question of security in some parts of the country, especially in the midlands and Matabeleland, have continued to be cause for concern. So many innocent and peace-loving Zimbabweans, including Senator Moven Ndlovu and (Eugene Ntuka), have fallen victims of dissidents. However, Comrade Banana warned those people with a penchant for violence that the forces of law and order would deal with them without mercy. He appealed to political parties to conduct their election campaigns peacefully, without intimidating people.

Reviewing the past, Comrade Banana admitted that since the first general election in 1980, the government confronted with many challenges, but all of them were met with amazing ability. He lauded the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, for his dynamic and progressive leadership.

The president touched on several issues in his address. He disclosed that the government is drawing up plans which will enable the country to devise alternative methods of water conservation. He added that the government has confidence in farming, and that, with sufficient rain, Zimbabwe will retain her traditional role of being the bread basket of the region.

Comrade Banana also appealed to the nation to exercise care and courtesy on the roads. He was commenting on the death rate, that has risen as a result of road accidents. He said that it is sad and tragic that normally useful modes of travel turn into monsters of death in the hands of careless and irresponsible people.

On the government's internal and external policies, Comrade Banana said the government wants to improve living standards for all people in the country. He said that improved living standards can be achieved through a policy of equitable distribution of wealth among all people.

Comrade Banana also pointed out that there can be no complete freedom and joys as long as there are people languishing in prisons in the apartheid-ruled South Africa and Namibia. He said all Zimbabweans should work for a better world, in which socio-economic and political justice will be the order of the day.

Briefs

ZANU-PF Parliament Members Two vacant Assembly, seats won by ZANU-PF in the last general election were filled yesterday. The previous members of parliament had resigned to take non-parliamentary posts. Comrade Lazarus Chauyachauya Nzarayebani was nominated to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Comrade Simba Makon, who took over as Southern African Development Coordination Conference executive secretary on 1 September. Comrade David Ishemunyoro Godi Karimanzira fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Comrade Moses Mvenge, who flew to Berlin in March as Zimbabwe's ambassador to the GDR. The announcements of the filling of the vacancies, effective as of yesterday, were made by the registrar general of elections. Until the next general election, vacancies in the House of Assembly are filled by the nominee of the party that won the seat in the last general election. Once constituencies are delimited, vacancies will be filled by by-elections. [Text] [*Harare THE HERALD in English 11 Dec 84 p 1 MB*]